

Community Group Discussion Guide

Sunday, June 22, 2025

Scripture: James 1:2-4



THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

God intends the many trials that Christians face to produce Gospel maturity.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

1. Who is this letter written to, and why?
2. Why do all humans instinctively desire joy? What's the difference between joy and happiness?
3. What trials are you currently undergoing? What's your mindset and your typical way of handling them?
4. Scripture trains us to respond to trials with our minds, not our feelings. Why?
5. How does a mindset of joy differ from simply thinking positive thoughts? How does one better prepare for trials than the other?
6. How do we reconcile James' command to consider it a joy when facing trials with other passages of Scripture that encourage lament?
7. What place does community play in times of hardship?
8. What does James mean that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness? Does "perfect and complete, lacking nothing" refer to sinless perfection (verse 4)?
9. Discuss how trials are opportunities for spiritual maturity.
10. What is the eternal joy that we should set our minds on?
11. How was Jesus able to endure the greatest of trials? How can we keep the gospel fixed in our minds?

GOSPEL OBSERVATIONS

- Christians face trials differently than the world because of the truth of the Gospel.
- Trials in the Christian's life reveal the genuineness of our faith in Christ.
- Trials, for the Christian, are designed to move us toward maturity in Christ.