

Week of September 11 - "Purpose of Trials" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 1

Connect

It has been said that life is about perspective, what problems or truth do you see in that thought?

Verses - James 1:1-4 (CSB)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. 2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Study

1. What is the right perspective when in a trial according to James? (v.2) Why does he say this perspective is important to have? (v.3) (2 Corinthians 4:17)

2. What are the end goals of the trials you experience according to James (vv.3-4)? (Romans 5:3-4; Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 1:7)

APPLY 1: Would you say that Christ had joy in His "trial" going to the cross? Why or why not?

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** How would you define the "joy" James talks about? How would you explain it to someone who doesn't know the Lord and thinks you are crazy?

3. What does James equate "testing of faith" to in v.3?

APPLY 2: Who would be the one who allows such testing? Why is it important that we believe it is Him (and not someone else)? (Psalm 26:2, James 5:11)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** How does one pass the "testing?" Can you provide a practical example of what this would look like in the life of a believer?

Share

How have trials shaped you for the better? How would things about your outlook be different if you had not experienced them? Did you witness the sovereignty of God in your trials? If so, how?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the protection of the TBC family especially with the increase in infections.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel.
- Pray for volunteers for the following ministries:
    - Small Group leaders (contact Hiromi: hiromik@tokyobaptist.org)
    - Meet & Connect / Welcome ministry (contact Hiromi)
    - Translators (contact Hiromi)
    - Kidzchurch volunteers (contact Sumiko: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org)
    - AWANA volunteers (contact Sumiko)