

# GROWTH GROUPS

## Discussion Questions for James 1:2-12 "Bearing the Fruit of Patience" Week of Mar. 15-18, 2020

1. Scripture memory: Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite Eph. 4:32.
2. Carefully read James 1.
3. Think of a recent trial you experienced in your life. What was it and how did you react or respond to it (or how *are* you reacting to it)? How do you usually react to trials?
4. What is biblical joy? Is there a difference between joy and happiness? (Phil. 4:4)
5. James makes a statement in verse 2 that seems illogical. Verse 3 starts with the word, "for," which identifies the reason for verse 2. Why should you "count it all joy...when you meet trials of various kinds?"
  - a) How should you respond to the trials in your life so that it will result in the character of patience and ultimately completeness, "perfection" (maturity) (v. 4; see also Rom. 5:1-5)? What's the role of the Holy Spirit in this? (Gal. 5:22)
  - b) If you *don't* respond properly to trials, what can it produce instead?
7. What is true wisdom? What (or who) is the source of true wisdom? How do you get it? (vv. 5-8; Psalm 119:97-100; Prov. 2:1-8)

8. Why do you need God's wisdom, especially regarding how to handle trials? (Prov. 2:9-22; 1 Cor. 1:19-25; James 3:17)
9. What's the result of vacillating or wavering between God's wisdom and worldly wisdom (vv. 6-8)? How have you seen this in your own experience?
10. a) How can both poverty ("the lowly brother," v. 9) and riches be a trial in a believer's life? (vv. 9-11; Deut. 8:11-20, Prov. 30:7-9)
- b) Rather than economic status or any other demographic, what is your true identity as a Christian? (Rom. 8:14-17, 1 Cor. 1:30-31, Gal. 3:23-29, Eph. 1:3-14) How should this impact how you view your trials?
11. In what additional way is a believer blessed by remaining patient under trial (v. 12)? This implies that God knows all about your trials; he is omniscient (all-knowing). How should this encourage you as you go through trials?
12. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on Sunday, Mar. 15th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

**PRAY IN THE GROUP:** Pray that God would help us grow in godly character as we face trials and tests of our faith. Pray that God would grow great spiritual depth and maturity across our church through the sanctifying work of his Spirit for his glory.