

THE TESTS WE TAKE

James 1:12-15

COLTON WILLEY

October 8, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Are you a good “test taker”? Tell your group about one of the hardest tests you’ve ever taken in school or at work. How did you prepare for the test? What did the results of the test actually reveal?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week’s passage together. In his message, **Colton Willey reminded us to have a biblical perspective of trials, tests, and temptation.**

The Test:

- **Tests are designed to check the authenticity of our faith (James 1:3, 12)**
 - Who are some people that you have seen suffer well in times of deep trials? How are you encouraged by those people?
 - Read 2 Corinthians 13:5 together. Colton said, “If there is no fight, there may be no light.” Think about the last time you were personally faced with a test or temptation. Did you fight hard to resist the temptation, or did you give in quickly?
 - The way we respond to tests reveals who/what we trust. Has your response to recent trials revealed a true faith in God, or in something else?

The Student:

- **Students must take ownership for their sin (James 1:13-14)**
 - How might you respond to the question, “If God is so good, why does He allow temptation in the lives of people He loves?”
 - There are two incorrect ways people react to sin in their lives: They wallow in it, or they excuse it. Do you find yourself falling into one of these two categories? Which one? How does that play out in your life?
- **Students must understand the depth of their sin (James 1:14-15)**
 - James tells us that we don’t “fall into sin”, we actually “nurse our sin to maturity.” How might that first phrase actually cause us to excuse sin in our lives?
 - When we allow sin to be cultivated in our lives, it kills us - even before we die. Be honest, have you seen the devastating impact of allowing sin to grow in your own life?
 - Colton listed four different ways students respond to tests:
 - The Ace, The Forgetter, The Gambler, The Grower. Which one are you when it comes to spiritual tests, trials, and temptations in your own life?

The Teacher:

- **The Teacher is Jesus Christ (John 16:33 and Matthew 4:1-11)**
 - How can you be more like Jesus in the way He responded to trials and temptation in His life?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group would prepare for, and learn from the tests they will face this week and beyond.

