

JOY UNDER TRIALS

James 1:2-4

PAT NEMMERS

September 17, 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)

- Talk with your group about a struggle you're going through right now that you would not have chosen - something that might be considered a trial or challenge.
- On a scale of 1-10, how joyful are you in the midst of this trial?

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, **Pastor Pat helped us know how to respond to trials in a joyful way.**

INTRODUCTION

- Respond to these quotes:
 - "Suffering is not for nothing." - Elisabeth Elliot
 - "Pain is God's megaphone. He whispers to us in our joys, speaks to us in our conscience, and shouts to us in our pain." - C.S. Lewis
 - A joy in the making (James 1:3)
 - "I have learned to kiss the wave that slams me into the Rock of Ages." - Charles Spurgeon

We can kiss the waves of trials when we see them as:

1. **A gift from God (see 1 Peter 1:6)**
 - Trials are given to us by God:
 - Presently - *now*
 - Temporarily - *for a little while*
 - Necessarily - *if need be*
 - Unequally - *various*
 - Which of these above characteristics are most encouraging to you right now?
2. **A joy in the making (James 1:3)**
 - How can you see the trial you're going through right now as a genuine joy in the making?
3. **A perfecter of our faith (James 1:2 and 12 - "when you meet trials of various kinds")**
 - As a group, talk about how past trials in your life have increased your faith.
4. **A test you will pass (James 1:3, see 2 Corinthians 13:5)**
 - What does it look like to *pass* the test when our faith is tried?

"God permits what He hates to accomplish what He loves." Joni Eareckson Tada

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that you and your group will embrace trials with joy this week.

