



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week One
James 1:1-18

MAIN POINT

Though we will face trials in our life, God is faithful to provide wisdom in hardship and the power to overcome sinful temptations.

PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

INTRODUCTION

Use this section to get the group warmed up a bit. You can use one of these questions, or you could write your own based on this week's text.

Discuss examples of endurance outside of the Christian faith—things that require physical or mental endurance.

Share an example of a time when you had to endure something and what that experience was like for you. What motivated you to endure during that time?

Endurance can take many forms. We often think of endurance when it pertains to physical long-distance events such as a marathon or a triathlon. Endurance is not merely a physical tool; it is a spiritual one as well. James began his letter urging endurance in trials. We can be confident that God will be faithful to us as we seek endurance in trials and temptations of all sorts.

READ JAMES 1:1-4

What should be a Christian's attitude when facing trials?

Why is perseverance important? What reward comes with persevering in the faith?

What incident in your life can you look back on and see the truth of verses 3-4? How can testing or trials actually strengthen a believer's faith?

READ JAMES 1:5-12

How do you define "wisdom"? How is it related to enduring trials?

What does it mean to be a "double-minded" person? What impact would this have on how a person faces trials?

Based on the description in this text, would you consider yourself to be double-minded? How can one avoid being double-minded?

Authentic, vibrant Christianity depends on our living moment-by-moment in the reality of knowing Jesus Christ, a knowledge that comes through faith. The term "double-minded" describes people with divided loyalties in heart and mind. They attempt to serve both God and self, both the spirit and the body, both light and darkness, both heavenly wisdom and human wisdom, both the law of life and the law of death.



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week One
James 1:1-18

READ JAMES 1:13-18

Why do you think people try to blame God for the temptations they face, as James's readers evidently were doing?

According to James in 1:13-15, who is the real culprit we are to blame for our sins?

What do these verses tell us about God? How can these truths encourage us as we fight against temptation?

PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK

What problems are you currently facing? How might you submit these to God based on what we have discussed today?

Where do you recognize indecision in your life following Christ? What needs to change? What steps will you take?

How might you face temptations differently based on today's study? How does a continual pursuit to overcome temptation give opportunity to share with others about the truth of the gospel?

PRAY

Close in prayer, thanking God that He uses everything, even our trials, to draw us closer to Him. Ask Him for wisdom in your life and continual dependence on Him for guidance. Submit to Him the areas where you are tempted, seeking His strength to overcome these temptations rather than your own.