



James: Embracing Ordinary TRIALS

March 5 | Matt Anderson

GROUPS WINTER SEMESTER: SEMESTER WEEK 6 FOCUS:

As Groups grow relationally and spiritually, they are ready to move into new chapters of their life together. As a Group, talk about how you're growing as a family of God and what your next "step" might be. It could be a service or missional outing, an open gathering in which you invite friends to join you, sharing communion, or more time in prayer together. Simply ask God to lead your discussion and watch him guide your steps!

WARM UP

1. Did you play any sports growing up?
2. What stood out to you in this week's message?

DIG IN

3. Read James 1:2-4. Why on earth could trials be seen as "pure joy" rather than something to avoid?
4. Read James 1:5-7. Why do you think James moves toward asking for wisdom after the challenge to see trials as pure joy? Why is wisdom needed? And why the warning about doubting here?
5. Read James 1:19-21. What is the wisdom of being quiet and listening to God during trials as opposed to talking, complaining, or acting in anger/desperation?

DIGGING DEEPER (EXTRA CREDIT!)

3. What does it mean to be "mature and complete," lacking in nothing (v. 4). Why are trials and suffering the means by which God brings us to maturity rather than through pleasant times alone?
4. Compare the "procreative" imagery used to describe sin and salvation in James 1:13-18. Talk about the 2 very different processes that lead to A) sin and death, and B) living as "firstfruits" for God.
5. What is your current or most recent trial. Did you experience the impulse to avoid it or escape? Did you experience the "pure joy" described in this passage?
6. Read Romans 5:3-5. Compare and contrast the process of growth in suffering described there with James 1:2-4. Does Romans 5 add anything helpful to this vision for growth?



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Title: Embracing Ordinary TRIALS
Speaker: Matt Anderson

- Have you set up an automatic giving plan to “automate the important”? We’re here to help!
- Learn about Surprise Covenant Partnership: Surprisechurch.com/Partners

James 1:1

How to be God’s chosen people _____, _____.

James 1:2-4

Consider it _____ whenever you...

Trials can be seen as:

_____, not _____.

What if there was a reason...

It takes _____ to see past circumstances and impulses...

James 1:5-8

2 Possible solutions in trials (James 1:11-18)

Self

God

In this trial...

Wisdom says...

James 1:16-18

Questions to ponder: