



Get the listening guide each week on your mobile device! Download the new MCA Church app.



SEPT 20

## PERSEVERING THROUGH TRIAL

### Key Scripture

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when they have stood the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

James 1:12

### We can have joy in the midst of trials when we have a firm foundation of faith.

1. God uses trials to produce spiritual maturity

*Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature.*

James 1:4

2. God gives faith to persevere through trials

*God has allotted to each person a measure of faith.*

Romans 12:3

3. God gives wisdom to know the way forward

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

James 1:5

### Opening Thought

James is a letter that serves as a how-to manual for the Christian life. When we deal with trials, contentions, and lack of faith, James teaches us that we can still have joy in the midst of our circumstances.

In chapter 1 we learn to view trials in our lives as a means of spiritual growth, and are encouraged to know that God gives us faith to persevere and wisdom to navigate the way.

Read James 1:2-4, 12. What stands out from these verses?

### For personal reflection or group discussion.

- Have you ever quit something (a game, a team, a job, etc.)? Are you glad you did or do you regret it?
- What is our natural reaction to trials? What does James say it should be?
- Agree or disagree with the statement, "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you."

### Questions to go deeper in your faith.

What promises do you see in the following passages?

1 Peter 4:12-13

1 Peter 5:6-10

What is a trial that you are currently facing and how might God be using it to mature your faith?

### Next Steps

- Who in your life is going through a trial right now? Ask the Lord how he might use you to encourage them.
- Memorize James 1:2-3.