

Living Faith

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy."

James 1:2



Get to Know you: *What makes you laugh? Share a moment in your life that brought you great joy.*

- 1. Read James 1:2-4.** While everyone experiences difficulties in life, *how we experience them may vary greatly.* Too often we are prone to compare ourselves and our situations to others which may be unhelpful. Share about a difficult time you went through. How did you get through it, and what did you learn through this experience?
- 2.** Did you know that joy is part of the Fruit of the Spirit? (See Galatians 5:22-23). **Read Hebrews 12:1-4.** These verses help to give us perspective on this life as it follows what is sometimes called the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. What is the primary example given of endurance with joy? How can Jesus' example help us when we go through difficult trials?

3. Read **Romans 5:1-5** and **1 Peter 1:3-9**. What do these verses tell us is the purpose of trials in our life? Sometimes when we are in the midst of difficult times, we may struggle to identify anything positive. Remembering God has a purpose in each and every trial can help us endure. What are some benefits you realised as you reflect back on a difficult time in your life that you came through?

4. **Read 1 Peter 4:12-19**. What are these verses talking about? Has there been a time in your life that your suffering was a direct result of just being a Christian? How does this differ from when we bring suffering on ourselves because we (or someone else) did something wrong? What is God's purpose in allowing us to suffer for doing right?

5. **Read 2 Cor. 1:1-7**. What can we learn from this passage about the purpose of our times of suffering? What role does God play? How can you help others who are going through the same stuff you have gone through?

6. Share something you are learning from your Quiet Time!



Alpha begins Sunday, 30 April. Would your LG be willing to help host a gathering one week from 5-8pm? This would include providing nibblies, set up, clean up, and general hosting for a 6:00-7:30pm program.