



Life Group Sermon Study Notes
"1st Responders"

November 2nd, 2025

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

Think of a time when things didn't go your way or how you expected. How did you respond?
What valuable lesson did you learn?

Is it too early for Christmas music? Why or why not?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.kingdomchurchmemphis.org

James 1:1-12 (ESV)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is

like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

What does this text teach us about God? About us?

James, the brother of Jesus, writes this letter to early Christians in order to help them live truly wise and authentic lives in Jesus. James talks about how to deal with suffering, what it means to live by faith, the importance of patience, why it is important to have a godly heart toward money and, most controversially, he talks about the relationship between faith and works. On this point, many believe he and the apostle Paul contradict each other, but a close examination of their writings reveals that James and Paul complement each other to provide us a robust understanding of how faith and works are concomitant to one another. James’s letter is filled with godly instruction to help followers of Jesus live lives completely submitted to God’s will so that we can experience the godly promises James’s letter reveals.

Our passage, like much of James, is filled with rich gems that help Christians experience the beauty of living for Jesus regardless of circumstance. James reminds us to choose joy when we suffer. God promises us that our steadfastness in trial comes with great reward. To be clear, Christian steadfastness does have a look: prayer, wisdom, faith and humility should characterize how we persevere through hard times. Each of these come with great benefits for our relationship with Jesus and allow us to tangibly experience his goodness and favor toward us. On the other hand, James warns us that when we endure with a lack of faith and live with prideful hearts we hinder our growth in Jesus and God’s blessing in our lives. Like James, we should live in light of who Jesus is and what he did on the cross. God’s wisdom on display through the gospel of our humble Lord Jesus becoming our exalted Savior should fill us with great faith in our trials. Jesus’s victory over sin, death, hell and the grave has made us victorious sons and daughters. The cross is our reminder to remain steadfast and wait for the perfection Jesus will bring to us. He endured the cross with the joy of our salvation as his motivation. Now, those who trust in him will continually experience victory in him and will receive rewards that the devil cannot crush.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

James tells us to “count it all joy...when you meet trials.” In his sermon, Pastor Chris Johnson told us to respond to chaos by choosing joy. What is joy?

According to this passage, will God immediately remove us from suffering or trials? Why or why not?

Read Nehemiah 8:10 and Romans 15:13. Why do we need joy during trials?

What's the difference between James in John 7:1-10 and when he wrote this letter? How can we relate to him?

Application

Based on James 1:2-4 Pastor Chris said "A faith that is not tested cannot be trusted." How does this shift your perspective on tests?

Why is it important to resist isolation during trials and lean into other brothers and sisters in the faith?

James talked about praying for wisdom, not doubting, having patience during trials and choosing joy in chaos. In your [SPIRITUAL FORMATION](#) at which one of these are you strongest? Weakest?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

Pray for each other's trials.

Pray that your hope would be anchored in who Jesus is and what he did.