

James 1:1-18 ~ Trials and Temptations ~ Discussion Questions

Memory verse: James 1:2-3

1. Who was the author of this letter? (Matt 13:55, Mark 6:3, Luke 24:10, Gal 1:19)
2. When did James become a disciple of Jesus? (1 Cor 15:7)
3. What stature did he have in the early church? (Acts 1:13-14, 12:17, 15:13, 21:17-19)
4. To whom was he writing this letter? When? Why?
5. Notice the three themes; hardship, perseverance, and wisdom. What does James say is the purpose for hardship? (James 1:2-3, Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 1:3-9)
6. What does he tell us about perseverance? (Romans 2:7, 8:24-25, 2 Cor 6:3-7, 2 Peter 1:3-9)
7. Where does he tell us to seek wisdom? (James 1:5, Job 28:28, Ps 111:10, Prov 2:6 and 29:15, 1 Cor 12:8, Col 3:16. Also see first four chapters of Proverbs)
8. How should we treat doubt? (Ps 33:4, Matt 21:21-22)
9. What is the “spiritual contradiction” raised in vs. 9-11? (See the parable of the sower in Mark 4:3-20 for Jesus’ words on this subject.)
10. In what should we take pride? (vs 9, Romans 15:17, Gal 6:4)
11. What is the difference between God’s view of wealth and the world’s view?
12. What is the difference between a “trial” and a “temptation”?
13. Where do temptations come from? (Matt 4:1, 18:7-9, Mark 9:42-50, 1 Cor 7:5)
14. How should we deal with temptation? (Matt 4:1-11, 26:41, Luke 22:40, 46, 1 Cor 10:13, Heb 4:15, 2 Tim 2:22, 1 Peter 5:8)
15. How would you summarize the first 18 verses of James? What actions are called for?

James 1:1-18 ~ Trials and Temptations ~ Questions for Small Groups

If there were any questions we did not get to in the main study, discuss them first.

1. Why do you agree or disagree with the statement, “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you.”
2. What is God’s response when you ask for wisdom? (1:5)
3. What effect does doubt have on you when you pray? (1:6-8) What doubts have you struggled with concerning God and prayer?
4. When do you find it hardest to pray?
5. What eventually happens to the wealth of a rich person—and to the person himself?
6. Have you ever wanted something very much, scrimped and saved until you could get it, and then been disappointed? Why? To others, did you admit your disappointment or pretend you made a good decision? Why?
7. From where does temptation come? A) God, B) Satan, C) your own desires, D) pressure from others, E) evil aliens.
8. James says there is a progression from temptation to death. What are the steps? (1:14-15) What can you do to stop an evil desire from becoming an evil act?
9. The best things in life: A) come from hard work, B) look good in short skirts, C) are a gift from God, D) are found in nature, E) come from obeying God’s commands.
10. Verse 1:18 reads, “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.” In this passage, the word “birth” means: A) being born in the womb, B) like the sprouting of a seed, C) bringing forth or gaining understanding, D) being born again (John 3:3, 3:5-7).