



# Sermon Discussion Guide

April 27, 2025 | James 1:1-11 | Jerrod

## **SUMMARY**

**Big Idea:** Joy is Not a Feeling we Chase in Trials, it is a Mindset We Choose

James has sometimes been compared to the OT book of Proverbs. It is fast-paced and imperative-rich. The half-brother of Jesus knew how life and faith should match up having watched his brother grow and begin his ministry. The beginning of James gives us one of the more famous passages that deals with trials. Christians should expect them, but we should also know that they are producing something in us, "steadfastness." This product is not completed in one moment but in experiences over time. This passage encourages a sort of discipline for the Christian to work at. In the end, the author has a hope of the reader to be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. That idea may never be perfectly realized but growing in steadfastness will prepare us to experience our next life where our sanctification will be complete. We need wisdom and gospel hope to handle these tough ideas and James tells us where to find it.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Intro**

1. Have you read through the book of James in one sitting? Do you have any expectations or hopes for how the Lord will use this series in your life?
2. "Faith that Works" - Describe a time in your life this last week where you were able to see God at work in you, proving and showing that you have a "faith that works."

### **READ James 1:1-11**

3. Trials. When, not IF. Why do you think one of our common responses to trials is surprise?
  - a. How does 'count it all joy' contrast with our other reflex responses to trials?
4. What have been or currently are some of the most life-shaping trials in your life? (Without going into detail, everyone share 1-2 briefly)
5. For James, how does wisdom fit into our ability to count it all joy?
  - a. What is your personal practice for getting and applying wisdom from God?
  - b. What role does (or could, or should) this LG play in that?
6. For James, how does the doubt/faith dichotomy relate to our ability to get wisdom?
  - a. What role does humility play in this?
7. In light of this passage, how is God calling you to have a **Faith that Works**?
  - a. How would you teach this and apply this passage to your kids, family, neighbors, friends, coworkers?