

PERSEVERANCE DURING TRIALS JAMES 1:2-12

Chi Alpha Lifegroup Guide James

PRE LG TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

How do you respond to difficult things in your life? Do you think our reactions to situations can change someone's perspective on Jesus? This is what we'll be discussing at Lifegroup tonight as we begin our study on the book of James.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

James 1:2-4

10N1 FOLLOW UP

What specific attitudes do you need to change when facing a trial? Do you feel as though you have received perseverance, maturity, and completeness (James 1:4) from your trials and temptations? Or do you think you've allowed your trials and temptations to create bitterness in your heart?

Living Life Together OVERVIEW

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of James: <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

INTRODUCTION

- What do you define as a "trial" in your life?
- Have you ever walked through a trial?

Testing of our faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-4)

- What do you think Paul is talking about when he says "whenever you face trials of many kinds?" What kind of trials can he be referring to?
- Do you feel as though you have had a "pure joy" attitude about facing trials in your life? (Verse 2)
 - Note here that
- What is perseverance? (Perseverance: persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *James is not saying that we should just be 100% happy in all of our trials. What he is saying is that we should find "joy" in our trials in the respect that we can bring glory and honor to the name of Christ who brings us through each trial that we undergo!*

Everything is temporary...including our trials (James 1:9-12)

- Do you often look at your trials as though they'll last forever? Or do you see our trials as temporary and focus on the promise we have of Jesus?
- What does James promise will come to those who persevere under trials? (They will receive the crown of life)

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *In verse 9-11, James tells his readers that the humble should take pride in their circumstances and that the rich should also take pride in their humility. He is talking about the fact that everything in life is temporary (both trials and success). The "materially poor" must focus on their spiritual walk with God. The "materially rich" must remember what it is to be humble before Christ, not on their material riches. Material riches are temporary! Spiritual riches are everlasting!*

APPLICATION

- How can we look at our trials with "pure joy" and glorify God with our attitude?
- If we glorify God with our attitudes during trials, what does that say to people who do not believe in Christ? How does that go against the world's attitude during trials?

