



Sermon Study Guide
5/20/18

Gods' grace growing in us, among us, and through us, bringing the fullness of Jesus Christ to all of life.

Series Theme

Faith: Some Assembly Required

Sermon Title

Trials: Consider It Joy (Khorl Smith)

Key Sermon Points

- There is a part that you and I have to play in faith.
- We are either in a trial, coming out of one, or headed into one. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble."
- The way we respond to the things that enter our lives is important and can either build or tear down our faith.
- Many of the Jews to whom James was writing had been cut off from family, friends, workplace or worship because of their belief in Christ.
- James tells people who are already being persecuted to consider their trials joyfully because they know something about God that the world doesn't.
- Because we know the "end of the story" we can have confidence in God and His love and care for us.
- The testing of our faith produces (manufactures in the Greek) endurance much like exercise produces health benefits in us.
- Adversity can actually work to perfect us as we lean into trials and embrace them because we know its potential.
- We quit so many things so easily. Jesus learned not to quit through trial, suffering and crucifixion because He knew the absolute love of the Father. We know the love of God through the suffering and resurrection of Jesus.
- The Bible tells us that Jesus loved Lazarus yet delayed coming to him for two days when told that he was sick and suffering. We must believe like Mary and Martha that Jesus is Life.
- If we believe the love of Jesus, we navigate pain and suffering differently.
- No matter what happens in our lives, Jesus is the Life. We will have trials the question for us is the same one that Jesus asked Mary and Martha, "Do you believe?"

Scripture: James 1:1-4, Romans 5:3-4, Hebrews 5:8-9, John 11:25-26

Personal Application

1. Make a list of the truths (and verses) you know about the love and power of God and Jesus (such as God loves me, etc.) Keep this list and review it often especially in times of trial.
3. Memorize James 1:2-4 this week. Print it, post it in a prominent place and review it several times each day... "2Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Discussion Questions: (conversations)

1. What trials or sufferings have ultimately built your faith? Which ones have gotten the better of you?
2. What are some of the trials, temptations and sufferings of Jesus? What can we learn from what He endured and the outcome?
3. What trials are you experiencing right now? How might you lean into the situation based on the truth of God's love and power?
4. What part can other believers play in our/your strengthening through trial and suffering?

Life Groups

Use the discussion questions above (and others as you are led) as you consider the building of faith through trials. What part can your group play in this process?

Children & Families

Have your children talk about some things that are most difficult for them. Remind them of your love and ultimately God's for them in spite of circumstances.

Other Resources

When God Doesn't Make Sense: by James C. Dobson (Author), R. T. Kendall (Foreword)

With more than one million copies sold, *When God Doesn't Make Sense* is an immensely practical book for those who are struggling with trials and heartaches they can't understand. Why does disease, natural disaster, divorce, rejection, death, or some other sorrow seep into our lives when we are trying to serve the Lord? It just doesn't seem fair!

This book deals unflinchingly with life's most troubling question—"Why?" Drawing on his long experience as a Christian psychologist and family counselor, Dr. Dobson brings hope to those who have almost given up. *When God Doesn't Make Sense* also helps believers avoid the "betrayal barrier" - the sense that God is abandoning them amid the storms of life. Now with a new foreword by R. T. Kendall.

Life Lessons: Book of James: Practical Wisdom (Life Lessons): by Max Lucado

The Lucado Life Lessons series continues to be one of the best-selling study guide series on the market today. For small group to individual use, intriguing questions and new material take the participant deeper into God's Word.