



Notes

October 1, 2017

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**Wisdom to Live By—A Study in James
Trials & Loyalties**

Group Discussion Questions

Read **James 1:1-18**

In these verses James is encouraging believers to live for Christ and not for this world. He challenges them about “doubting,” being “double-minded,” and having divided loyalties (trying to live for God and for this world at the same time). How do you see yourself living in a “double-minded” way?

Trials often reveal areas where we rely on the things of this world instead of God. How have you experienced this in your life?

James asks us to consider how we are thinking. What we believe about the trials we face will determine our response to them. Share about a trial from your life using the “ABC’s”:

- A – what was the **A**dversity?
- B – what did you **B**elieve about it?
- C – what **C**hoices did your belief produce?

James uses the word “perseverance” in this passage, which means: to stand fast as you remain under. Share a struggle you have had and what it looked like for you to persevere through it.

When we turn to God, trials can form us. Share about a time when you experienced more character growth than usual. Did it involve a trial?

One thing we embrace as people living for eternity is that God is more concerned with our character than our circumstances. How does this change your mindset when it comes to trials?

One-on-One Through James Questions

Look up the definition of “perseverance” in the dictionary (m-w.com) and read it together. Recognize that trials and perseverance through them have a spiritual purpose. Begin your time together in prayer. After a moment of silence, discuss what struggles come to mind. How are you persevering? In what way might God want to use this struggle to grow you? As you earnestly ask for God’s wisdom in the midst of this struggle, and then pause to listen, what comes to mind?