

STUDY NOTES

JAMES: A FAITH THAT ENDURES

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Trials and the Goodness of God” on 2/3/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:12–18

RECEIVING A CROWN OF LIFE

James says that we can be joyful in our trials because God is doing a good work within us. James gives another benefit though. He says that those who remain diligent will receive a crown of life. But what is a crown of life? This crown of life is the glory that comes from eternal life with God. He promises eternal life to anyone who trusts and loves him, and who perseveres in that love and trust.

- *Why is it important to know that God wants to give you a crown of life?*

BLAMING GOD FOR TEMPTATION

God wants to give us glory, but oftentimes we don't believe that. Instead we blame God for our sinful reactions to the situations that we are in. It is human nature to find other people to blame for our actions. This goes back to the first humans.

- *What is your experience with someone blaming others for their own sin?*
- *Why do people blame others rather than owning their own sin?*

TEMPTED BY OUR OWN DESIRES

We alone are to blame for our sin. The source of our temptation is within us—our own desires. Those desires aren't necessarily sinful. Desire for sex, attention, food, or influence aren't sinful, but it is what we do with those desires that can lead to sin. And sin will always lead to death.

- *Why is it important to know that some desires aren't sinful in and of themselves?*
- *How can you tell when a desire becomes sinful?*
- *Describe how sin has led to death for you?*

GOD WANTS OUR GOOD

We must never doubt God's goodness in life, especially when we are going through trials, especially when we are tempted to sin. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. All over Scripture it is clear that God doesn't give us things that are bad for us. His goodness never changes despite the circumstances in which we are. God's goodness might be most clearly seen, through Jesus, in our salvation.

God always has our good in mind.

- *How has Jesus already proven that he is willing to go through anything for your good? How does that make you feel?*
- *Pray with each other that you can be reminded of God's goodness.*