

Bible Summary

James 1:1-4
Hard's Not Bad

James writes his book to a group of people who are going to go through incredibly hard times. He begins his book by shaping their perspective on difficulty. His good news is that trials, while unavoidable and unpredictable, are the crucible to create character in the life of believers.

Scriptures— James 1:1-4; Mark 3:21; John 7:5; Genesis 42:36, 50:20; Romans 8:32

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.
There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Why is hard not bad?
3. Matt gave three common responses to trials: enemy to escape, master to endure, opportunity to grow. What is your natural reaction to hardships and stresses in life? How has Christ transformed your attitude toward hardship?
4. Why do we blame God but excuse evil? Why do we focus on the reason for the trial rather than the Perfecter of our faith?
5. Are there weaknesses in your life that you've ignored? How can you work to strengthen them?
6. Trials are to change our perspective. Share a time when a trial changed your perspective.
7. How do we become steadfast?
8. How is your faith being tested now? How can our group encourage you to persevere and be steadfast?

"Getting to know you" Questions

1. Since we last met, what are a couple things you're particularly thankful for? (Philippians 4:8)
2. Have you seen any victories?
3. What is a challenge you are facing right now?
4. What is one thing you are looking forward to?