



STUDY GUIDE ONE – FROM SERMON ON SEPTEMBER 14

Life can feel overwhelming when trials come our way. In James 1:2–11, we discover a surprising perspective—joy in hardship, wisdom through prayer, and humility in both poverty and wealth. This passage invites us to see our challenges as opportunities for growth and to trust God’s unchanging goodness. As we discuss together, let’s open our hearts to what God wants to teach us in these areas.

READ JAMES 1:2–8 TOGETHER

James says to “consider it pure joy” when facing trials (v. 2). Why do you think he encourages joy in hardship? How is this different from how most people view trials?

According to verses 3–4, what is the purpose of trials in the life of a believer? How do they lead to maturity?

How have you personally seen God use a difficult season to grow your faith or character?

Why do you think James links asking for wisdom (v. 5) with enduring trials? What does this teach us about our need for God during hardship?

James warns against doubting when asking God for wisdom (vv. 6–8). What does genuine faith look like in prayer? How can doubt hinder our relationship with God?

Share a time when you prayed for wisdom in a challenging situation. How did God provide direction or peace?

READ JAMES 1:9–11 TOGETHER

In verses 9–10, James contrasts the “lowly” and the “rich.” What attitude does James encourage each group to have?

How does the image of flowers withering under the sun (vv. 10–11) shape your perspective on wealth and status?

What does this passage teach us about where true security and worth come from? How can we live this out in a culture obsessed with success and possessions?

WRAPPING IT UP

Which of these three areas—enduring trials, seeking wisdom, or handling wealth humbly—is most challenging for you right now? Why?

How would your life look different if you fully embraced James’ perspective on trials, wisdom, and wealth? What practical step can you take this week to live with greater joy, dependence on God, and humility?

Close your time together by praying for one another.

