

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

1. How is James' view of trials different than how we tend to see them? Why is it so hard for us to change our view?

2. How much are you tempted to blame God, other people, or circumstances for your own sin? How has James opened your eyes to the real source? What difference will that make?

3. What's going on in your life right now for which you need to take responsibility? What's going on in your life right now for which you need to trust that God is at work producing growth in you?

Take Responsibility:

Trust God for Growth:

ACTIVE FAITH ACTION STEP | WEEK 01

The next time you have a setback, disappointment or hardship – stop and thank God for the opportunity to resist temptation in faith and become more like Christ. Then act accordingly!

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Thank God for His character: the generous, unchanging Father of the heavenly lights. Thank God for giving you birth through the word of truth, and for promising you a crown of life for eternity.

Share some trials you are facing and pray for each other. Pray for wisdom and faith to resist temptation toward sin, and for joy and maturity in Christ.

Gifts for Growth

James 1:12-18

Wrong View #1: *God Is Tempting Me*

James 1:13-15

True View:

Wrong View #2: *God Is Wronging Me*

James 1:16-18

True View:

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of January 15, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. If there are new people in your group, do brief introductions with each person sharing something fun about themselves.
2. Take a few minutes as a group to look over the *Growth Group Covenant*. (Your leader will have it at your first meeting).
3. Tell the group about a time when you were blamed for something you didn't do. If that doesn't ring a bell, share some of the most creative "excuses" you've heard people give to pass blame for something they did.

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read James 1:1-12

1. List the results of trials that James identifies in (1:3-4,12), then list how we should therefore respond to trials (1:2, 5-11).

Results of Trials:

Response to Trials:

2. According to verse 12, what kind of person does James want his readers to be?

Read James 1:13-15

3. What is the difference between a trial (or test) and a temptation? Why is it important to know that God is not the source of our temptation? **Also read: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Exodus 20:20; 2 Peter 2:9.**

4. Why do we need to take responsibility for our role in our own temptations? Where does temptation lead if not resisted?

PERSONAL: Have you ever experienced what James describes in 1:14-15? Think of an example and confess it to God.

Read James 1:16-18

5. Why does James suddenly talk about God's goodness and faithfulness? What are the "good gifts"? What could we be deceived about in regards to trials and temptations?
6. What does it mean to be "brought forth"? In what way has James used this metaphor before (1:15)? How do these compare? **Also read: John 3:1-6.**
7. What is the "word of truth"? What did God cause to happen by this "word"? How should this bring you confidence about God's goodness in the midst of trials? **Also read: Romans 8:28, 32**