

“The Trials We Face”
FSM James Curriculum

It is easy at times to believe that when we follow Jesus life should automatically become easier. Like we should receive a “get out of jail free” card that saves us from pain and trial, but as we see reflected in scripture, and even in the life of Christ, that assumption is simply not true. As believers we are still part of a human race that is touched by sin every moment, which means that pain and trial are a constant, even in the best of times life can still be affected by loss, separation and hurt. The good news is though, that with Christ we have an answer for pain and we have an advocate who fights for us and shows us that the pain is small in comparison to the joy that is to come. Pain is part of life, but healing and hope are equally part of life with Christ.

Spend some time talking about the hard things that are going in your cell group right now, even if it feels small, what are you all going through? We are all the same in that all of our lives are marked by hurt, disappointment, sadness, loss, and loneliness.

Read James 1:1-18

1. How does it make you feel when you read scriptures like James 1:2?
2. Does it seem practical or possible to be joyful in the midst of trial? Why or why not?
3. How do all of these verses work together and tell us how to take joy in suffering?
4. What does it mean to have your faith tested? Why is it a good thing to have it tested? What does the test produce?
5. Why is it so easy to blame God when bad things happen, but not even think about Him when good things happen?
6. How would your life change if you remembered that every good thing in life is a gift from the Lord?
7. What are some ways that you can better practice gratitude and thankfulness? Do you think a heart of thankfulness would change your attitude in hard times?

Read James 5:7-12

1. What are some examples of being patient in suffering? Either from the Bible or from life?

2. How can we look more like Christ in the midst of suffering? What example has He set for us?

3. What does it mean to be steadfast? How can you be steadfast in the midst of the trials in your life right now?
*Leader Tip: Again in all of this, unless we have hearts captured by Christ we cannot truly begin to walk in the freedom of “joy in suffering”. Spend time talking about how the Lord changes us and because of our future hope and joy in Christ we are able to handle the difficult seasons of life.

Closing: For the closing read James 5:13-20. Ask your students if they truly believe that prayer changes things. Then spend time intentionally praying that the Lord would heal hearts and bring His healing, restoration and purpose to the trials that your students are facing.