

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON JAMES 1:1-12

OPEN

- Who was the tower of strength in your family? Why that person?
- In stressful times, what do you do to ease the stress?
- Think of a recent problem or difficulty in your life. In what ways did God give you strength to face that situation?

STUDY

- **1:2-4.** In James' exhortation to rejoice during a time of trial, he presents some important facts about the nature of trials. Name some facts about the trials of life.

List a couple of things every Christian should remember in order to rejoice during a time of blessing.

- **1:5-7.** Who can acquire the wisdom of God?

How does someone acquire the wisdom of God? (See also Proverbs 1:7; 2:1)

- **1:6-8.** James presents a rather negative picture of an individual who will not allow himself to trust God. What are some things James says about this individual? What do they mean?

If a man is double-minded (1:8), his instability will be a poor reflection on Jesus Christ and a source of frustration to others. What do you think is meant by the phrase "double-minded"?

- **1:9-12.** Another test of genuine faith is how a Christian responds to his economic station in life. How can the poor man ("lowly brother") not allow his economic limitations in life to be a source of constant discouragement (1:9)?

The rich man is supposed to rejoice in his "humiliation" (1:10). What do you think this means?

What are some indications that a Christian is not satisfied with his or her present economic status in life?

- **1:12.** What does the word "blessed" mean?

What do you think it means to "remain steadfast under trial"?

APPLY

- How have life's "thumps" challenged you to seek God?
- How has your relationship with God changed as you have gone through trials and difficulties?
- In what ways does this passage relate to your present problems and frustrations?
- Where are you feeling under pressure at the moment?
- How can this group help you in prayer this week?

PERSONAL

- Do you tend to blame God and everybody else for your problems?
- Honestly assess your attitude toward your present economic situation and the situation of others. Can you say that your attitude reflects a Biblical perspective and genuine faith in God?

DIG DEEPER

Hebrews 12:1-2; Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Corinthians 7:4.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come to you just as we are, struggling to cope with the trials of life. We are grateful that you never turn your back on us. You promise to give us the wisdom and strength we need each day. Continue to test us until our character shines and brings glory to you.

