

# JAMES

## FAITH WORKS

### Overcoming Trials and Temptation

Discussion Guide

February 3, 2019

James 1:1-18

#### Questions for Study

\*\* Before you begin, please read James 1:1-18 as a group.

1. When you think of “tough times” and “trials” generally, what circumstances or experiences come to mind? Share the first 3-4 things you think of.
2. Why is the way we respond to trials so important?
3. Look closely at James 1:2-4 when answering the following questions:
  - How does James command us to respond to trials? What does he mean (and what doesn't he mean) by this?
  - What “bigger perspective” does James provide here, showing us what happens when we persevere the right way through trials?
  - Describe someone you know who has persevered through trial. How has that difficult experience matured them spiritually? Explain.
4. James talks about the “trial” of temptation in verses 13-15. How can temptation be a sort of “inner trial”?
5. Summarize what James says about the progression of temptation into sin in verses 13-15. How does this contrast with ways the culture around us wants us to view sin?
6. From the way James describes this “downward spiral of sin,” how does this help you respond to temptation the right way – avoiding sin and living in a way that honors Jesus?
7. Throughout this passage, James keeps our eyes fixed on God and what He offers. Look especially at verses 5, 12, and 16-18. What do you learn about God and what He offers in these verses? Identify as many observations as you can from these verses.
8. Why are these truths about God and what He offers so important to keep in mind when you're facing trials and temptation?
9. What trial or temptation are you facing? What have you learned from James 1:1-18 about how you can respond to this trial well? Pray for each other as a group about these things.
10. **Challenge:** Memorize James 1:2-4: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.