

COMMUNITY

Sweet & Sour Share from your week something good or something hard.

Pray Pray for each other either as a large group or in smaller groups.

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

Message Discussion Questions

1. **Read James 1.** Name five key ideas in this chapter. Key ideas in 1:1-12? Discuss who James is. Discuss who James is writing to. Why did he write?
2. What does the phrase “real faith works when life doesn’t” mean to you? What is ‘real faith?’ How is it different from non-real faith? Describe some ways life is ‘not working real well’ for you right now. Why?
3. **What does it mean, “It takes NO work to enter a relationship with Jesus?”** In what ways do we ‘work’ to live the Christian life? When we think about this ‘work,’ why are the words ‘surrender, partner, obey, abide & cooperate’ good words? What other words help you make your faith ‘real?’
4. **Describe the trials the readers were experiencing.** How did some respond? Describe how what we are experiencing as believers could be similar. Why? Describe how suffering purifies. Discuss how prolonged suffering can crush.
5. In what sense are trials inevitable? What are trials that you are experiencing? In what sense are these trials variable? Give an example from your life. In verses 9-11, James notes trials affect everyone. In what ways is this true?
6. Trials ‘test’ us (vs. 3). In what sense does God use trials to test us? **Read 1 Pet. 1:7 & Rom. 5:1-5.** What is God’s purpose for our trials/testing?

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- James notes why we struggle with trials (1:5-8). What are those reasons? What is the relationship between trials and our need for wisdom (vs. 5)? What is needed for us to receive from God in prayer (vs. 6)? Why? What is the problem with us when we doubt in prayer (vs. 7-8)? What is the difference between doubting God and asking questions of God?
 - Discuss these 4 responses to trials: Rejoice, Request, Respond, Remember
Rejoice - because Jesus uses trials in our life to make us more like Him **Request** - ask Jesus for wisdom to ask WHAT (do you want) not WHY (trial)

Respond - surrender to, partner with, trust & obey Jesus in the trial
Remember - Jesus is always good & faithful to His promises

- What is Jesus asking you to change in your thinking, trusting & obeying Him?
Share a specific thing in your life that you want to apply these truths to.
Discuss how your trials that you are experiencing are similar and different.
How do you think Jesus wants to apply this passage to people at Rockpoint?

Growing in Godliness #4

GODLINESS IS AN INVESTMENT (both for this life and eternity)

Read 1 Tim. 4:8-10; Matt 6:19-20. *Discover together key thoughts from each.*

What is an investment? In what ways is pursuing godliness an investment?

Godliness is valuable to God & us, in this present life & in eternity. (vs. 8)

As physical training is helpful in a limited way, training for godliness is helpful in every way. *Discuss how physical training & pursuing godliness are similar.*



life groups

Godliness helps us in our relationship with—God, ourselves & others.

Discuss how godliness affects your relationship with God in the following areas:

**clearer conscience, *not grieving the Spirit, *increasing intimacy with Jesus*

Discuss how godliness affects your relationship with yourself in these areas:

**less shame, *less guilt, *fewer regrets, ‘true humility, Christ-confidence*

**Discuss how godliness affects your relationship with others in these areas:*

**other-focused (not self-focused), *integrity, *compassion, *encourager*

Growing in godliness requires us to make it a priority and pay attention to how we are doing (evaluation). (vs. 9) *Rate yourself in growing in godliness (1-10).*

What is keeping you from growing in godliness? How can that be changed?

Godliness is a sure investment since Jesus saves all who trust in Him. (vs. 10)

Describe how you know Jesus has saved you forever. How is Jesus your Savior?

In what area does Jesus want you to trust Him to help you be more like Him?

MISSIONAL LIVING

Pray/Care/Share Who, in your life, are you asking Jesus to save?

Neighboring What are you doing in your ‘neighborhood’ during this crisis?

Serving As a Life Group, who are you serving in Jesus’ name?