

# Community Groups

## Sermon Discussion Guide

March 1st, 2026 | The Book of James

### Prayer

Take time before discussion to take prayer requests and pray for each member of the group that requests prayer.

### Read James 1:1-8 out loud as a group.

1. How do the trials that we encounter give our faith a stage to show itself? What happens when the focus is on ourselves and not on Christ?

*Help the group see that trials reveal where trust is really placed. When focus shifts inward, fear, control, and frustration grow; when focus stays on Christ, endurance and hope become visible. Invite honest examples, and gently redirect the conversation toward Christ's sufficiency rather than personal strength.*

2. The testing of our faith allows it to grow and become more firmly grounded in Christ. In what ways can we be intentional to allow trials to strengthen us?

*Guide the group to talk about practices like prayer, Scripture, community, and obedience that keep hearts open to God during hardship. Emphasize that intentionality doesn't remove the trial but positions faith to mature through it. Encourage practical, grace-filled steps rather than quick fixes.*

3. Faith includes trusting God's character and committing to follow His direction. What role does God's wisdom play in learning to live faithfully?

*Point out that God's wisdom anchors faith when emotions or circumstances feel unstable. His wisdom helps believers discern what faithfulness looks like shaping responses, attitudes, and decisions. Encourage the group to connect asking God for wisdom with daily dependence, not just crisis moments.*

### Read James 1:9-15 out loud as a group.

4. We are to trust God and not our own circumstances or status. What does it look like to truly trust in The Lord as His child?

*Help the group explore trust as resting in God's care rather than measuring life by success, hardship, or comparison. Trust shows up in humility, contentment, and confidence that God is good and present. Affirm that childlike trust grows over time and often through surrender.*

5. Perseverance is a fruit of God's grace. How does grace compel us to remain steadfast in the midst of temptation?

*Lead the group to see that grace doesn't just forgive failure, it empowers faithfulness. God's grace reminds believers we are not alone, not abandoned, and not defined by temptation. Encourage discussion around how remembering grace changes motivation from fear to love.*

6. Sin is a result of our own desires within us giving way to temptation. How might we remain people who are continually convicted, brought to repentance, led to confession, and renewed in Christ?

*Guide the conversation toward cultivating soft hearts through humility and honesty before God. Ongoing repentance is sustained by regular self-examination, accountability, and confidence in Christ's forgiveness. Encourage the group to view conviction as an act of God's mercy, not condemnation.*

**Read James 1:16-21 out loud as a group.**

7. In seasons of disappointment how can you guard against being led away to doubting and eventually dishonoring God?

*Help the group recognize that disappointment can quietly distort how God is viewed. Guarding against doubt involves returning to what is true about God's character rather than interpreting Him through circumstances. Encourage practices that anchor faith like Scripture, prayer, and shared testimony.*

8. God's word, His Gospel, has been planted in our hearts. In what ways might The Lord be leading you to surrender more deeply to God's word to allow it to transform our hearts?

*Invite the group to reflect on areas where God's word is heard but resisted or delayed. Transformation happens as believers receive the word with humility and allow it to shape beliefs, habits, and responses. Encourage listening for the Spirit's prompting and responding with obedience, even in small steps.*