

Week 4, Devotional 1 – James 1:2-4

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are worthy of my trust today – even when I have many things that stress me out. There is nothing that I am walking through that is overwhelming to you. There is nothing that I am walking through that surprises you. Help me to trust you.
Scripture Reading	James 1:2-4. Find a version with simple wording if you have little ones.
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have you ever faced a “trial” or difficulty? How did it make you feel? 2. Verse 2 says we are to be joyful when life gets hard. What makes that such a hard thing to do? 3. Read verses 3 and 4. How can those truths help us when we are going through something difficult? (Hint: We are reminded that God never wastes the hard things that we go through. It ALL has a purpose). 4. Have you ever experienced something bad only to realize that there was still something good that came from it? 5. What hard situation can you trust God with this week? 6. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Listen to “Joy in the Morning” by Tauren Wells</p> <p>V1 Everything happens for a reason But you don't know what you don't know And you'll never have peace if you don't let go of tomorrow</p> <p>'Cause it ain't even faith till your plan falls apart But you still choose to follow, uh If it doesn't make sense right now, it will when it's over</p> <p>Chorus: There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning</p> <p>V2: Giving in to your feelings is like drowning in the shadows Oh, you gotta keep believing Even in the middle of the unknown</p> <p>'Cause grace will be there When you come to the end of your rope and you let go It may feel like you're goin' down now But the story isn't over</p> <p>Chorus: There will be joy in the morning There will be joy in the morning</p>

	<p>Bridge: If it's not good, then He's not done No, He's not done with it yet There will be joy in the morning</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, I often struggle to fully trust you with the things that I am going through. I sometimes believe that I can handle it all better than you can – that my plans are better off in my own hands. Forgive me.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that you have a good plan for me. Thank you that because of the work of Jesus on the cross, there's hope that is secured forever and ever – even when life gets hard for a little bit.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, I pray that you would help me to count my trials as joy and trust that you are doing something. Give me a stronger faith in you.</p>

Week 4, Devotional 2 – James 1:5

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are all wise and all knowing; I am not. There are times when I am going through something that I need to be reminded that none of it surprises you and none of it catches you off guard. You are so much bigger than I am. Help us now get to know you and trust you more as we read your word.
Scripture Reading	James 1:5. Find a version of the Bible with simple language if you have little ones.
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is wisdom? (look it up in a dictionary). 2. Who in your family do you think has a lot of wisdom/good judgment? 3. Being wise is more than just knowing the right thing, it is doing the right thing. Do we always do the right thing? Why not? 4. Do we need wisdom from God? 5. Read verse 5 again. How do we get that wisdom? (hint: we ask). 6. And does God want to give us wisdom when we ask? (read verse again if necessary). 7. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up “My Worth is Not in What I Own” by Keith and Kristyn Getty and sing along with these lyrics</p> <p>V1: My worth is not in what I own Not in the strength of flesh and bone But in the costly wounds of love At the cross</p> <p>V2: My worth is not in skill or name In win or lose, in pride or shame But in the blood of Christ that flowed At the cross</p> <p>Chorus: I rejoice in my redeemer Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul And I will trust in him, no other My soul is satisfied in him alone</p> <p>V3: As summer flowers we fade and die Fame, youth and beauty hurry by But life eternal calls to us At the cross</p> <p>V4:</p>

	<p>I will not boast in wealth or might Or human wisdom's fleeting light But I will boast in knowing Christ At the cross</p> <p>Chorus: I rejoice in my redeemer Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul I will trust in him, no other My soul is satisfied in him alone</p> <p>V5: Two wonders here that I confess My worth and my unworthiness My value fixed, my ransom paid At the cross</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, I rarely ask you for wisdom. Forgive me and help me. <u>Thanksgiving:</u> Father, as the song says, we don't find our worth in anything that we own OR anything that we know. We find our worth in what Jesus did for us on the cross. Thank you, God, for giving us your Son. <u>Supplication:</u> Help us to navigate the days ahead – whether they are filled with joy or struggles. Give us wisdom as we desire to live for you.</p>

Week 4, Devotional 3 – James 1:13-14

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are unchanging – you are good – and you have good plans for us. As we read your Word now, help us to see those things more clearly. The more we know you, the more we love you. We want to know you more, now.
Scripture Reading	James 1:13-14.
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to be tempted? 2. Does God tempt people? (v 13) 3. What causes you to be tempted to sometimes do the wrong things? (v 14). 4. What should we do when we sin against the Lord? (hint: confess our sins to Him and go in the opposite direction of our sins). 5. Verse 14 says that we sin when we are enticed by our own desires. Can God give us new and better desires when we get closer to Him? (hint: yes). 6. What things can we do to get closer to God? (hint: read the Bible, pray, sing to the Lord, tell others about Him, etc.) 7. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up the song, “He Will Hold Me Fast” by Shane and Shane or the Getty’s</p> <p>V1: When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast</p> <p>V2: I could never keep my hold Through life's fearful path For my love is often cold He must hold me fast</p> <p>Chorus: He will hold me fast He will hold me fast For my Savior loves me so He will hold me fast</p> <p>V3: Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast</p> <p>V4:</p>

	<p>He'll not let my soul be lost His promises shall last Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast</p> <p>Chorus: He will hold me fast He will hold me fast For my Savior loves me so He will hold me fast</p> <p>V5: For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast</p> <p>V6: Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast 'Til our faith is turned to sight When He comes at last!</p>
<p>Prayer</p>	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, I am often tempted to do the wrong thing because my heart is not always close to yours. Forgive me and help me. I want to be closer to you through reading your Word and talking to you in prayer.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that you “hold me fast” when I am tempted and when I doubt that you have a good plan in store for me. Thank you that you love me so much that you take care of me and make me more like Jesus.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, I know I can’t see you – and I know I can’t loudly hear your voice. Help me to trust that you are with me and that you love me. Remind me through the Bible (Your Word) – through our church – and through my family and friends that you are with me and that you love me.</p>

Week 4, Devotional 4 – James 1:16-17

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are the giver of all of the good things in my life. Even the best things about me and within me are from you. You are unchanging and you are good. We want to know you more as we read your Word.
Scripture Reading	James 1:16-17.
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read verses 16 and 17 together. Why do you think it starts by saying, “Do not be deceived?” (hint: because we are tempted to believe that good things come from us and from others). 2. Who gives every good and perfect gift? (V 17). 3. Why does it matter that we give God glory for what He has given to us? 4. How does this truth shape the way we handle our treasures (money, cars, home, etc.). (hint: it reminds us that it all comes from God – so we can be generous because it is all a gift). 5. What good things has God given you that you want to thank Him for? 6. What did you learn in this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up “Rise Up” by Cain and follow along with the lyrics below.</p> <p>V1 I tend to be busier than I should be And I tend to think that time is gonna wait for me Sometimes I forget and take for granted That it's a beautiful life we live I don't wanna miss the moments like this This is a beautiful life you give</p> <p>Chorus: You're the reason for every good thing, every heartbeat Every day we get to breathe You're the reason for anything that lasts, every second chance Every laugh, life is so sweet You're the reason for every good thing, every good thing Every good thing, every good thing You're the reason for every good thing, every good thing Every good thing, every good thing</p> <p>V2: There will be days that give me more than I can take But I know that you always make beauty from my heartache Don't wanna forget or take for granted That it's a beautiful life we live I'm not gonna miss the moments like this This is a beautiful life you give</p> <p>Chorus:</p>

	<p>You're the reason for every good thing, every heartbeat Every day we get to breathe You're the reason for anything that lasts, every second chance Every laugh, life is so sweet You're the reason for every good thing, every good thing Every good thing, every good thing You're the reason for every good thing, every good thing Every good thing, every good thing</p> <p>Bridge: It's our family, it's our friends It's the feeling that I get when I see my children smile You're the reason for this life, everything we love It's you alive in us You're alive in us</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> God, I sometimes take credit for the good things I have. Remind me that it all comes from you – that the best parts of my life are a gift. Forgive me for when I take the glory of it all for myself.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you for what you have given me. For a bed to sleep in, food to eat, family and friends that want me to know you, and a church that wants to help me follow you.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, give us grateful hearts for all that you have done for us. God, we have many things we want – and your Word helps remind us that it is good to ask you for things. When something good happens or we receive something wonderful, remind us that you get the credit first.</p>