



# COMMUNITY GUIDE

June 6, 2021

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** Trials will come but consider it all joy because God is good.

**HEAD CHANGE:** If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us.

**HEART CHANGE:** God tests us to bring out the best, Satan tempts us to bring out the worst.

**LIFE CHANGE:** God builds character before He calls us to service. He must work in me before He can work through me.

## OVERVIEW

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The Book of James was written to a church that was scattered and couldn't meet all together due to circumstances beyond their control. We're still experiencing a similar separation as a church today. In difficult times like these, trials and temptations are inevitable, but God will empower us to persevere as we live out our faith and grow spiritually mature. This is what the book of James is all about, growing spiritually mature. The first mark of maturity that James identifies is learning to become, "patient in testing." Easier said than, done but that's where God comes in...

*"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident*

*hope of salvation."*  
-Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)-

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What does it look like to truly trust God in the middle of a trial? Share about a time in your life when God empowered you to persevere through something difficult.
2. In times of trial, do you tend to trust God or fight for control? In what ways do you need to fully surrender to God?
3. How have you become more mature because of a trial that you've experienced in the past or are experiencing in the present?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity to meet together and build healthy relationships, even in the midst of trials and temptation. As I walk through this time, help me see from Your perspective, trust Your process, and overcome temptation so I can live in Your victory as I grow more mature. Give me wisdom through the challenges I face so that I may honor you. In Jesus' name, amen.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**