

HANG IN THERE

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

James 1:1-12

James starts out after introducing himself with a single Greek word “Charo” which is translated “greetings”.

- Why does he start out this way?

1. Hang in there, Jesus did. **Matthew 3:13-4:11**

- Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the Judean wilderness to be tested?
- What can we learn from this?

2. Hang in there when trials come. **James 1:2**

- What does James mean when he says trials are coming?
- What does he say is this a test of?
- What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials? Why?
- What good has ever come out of a difficult situation in your life? According to **James (1:2)** and following verses, how should we react when times get tough?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7.

- What does this say about a phony faith?
- What about a genuine faith?

James doesn't say, “if trials come”. He says “when you meet trials”.

- How can you prepare for this?

3. Hang in there, these trials have a purpose. *James 1:3-4*

- What is the purpose of a trial?
- What will this produce in you short term and long term?
- What did the fasting for 40 days that Jesus did prepare Him for?

Read *Luke 4:1*

- Who helped Jesus when He was in the wilderness for 40 days? Will He help us?
- What is James telling us in verse 4? So do you think temptations can be good?
- Why? Why not?
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4. Hang in there, God's wisdom is always available. *James 1:5-8*

- Why do some trials overwhelm us? Is there any joy in enduring trials?
- Define "wisdom" and explain what the source of wisdom is?
- Discuss the connection between wisdom, prayer and studying your Bible.
- What danger can we face (v.6-8) on our Journey to Greatness?
- What illustration does James use to explain doubt?

Read *Luke 8:22-25*

- Discuss these verses. What can we learn from them? What is the opposite of faith?
- How did Jesus respond to the disciples' doubts?
- What does James mean in v. 8 "he is double-minded?"
- How do we solve the problem of being double-minded?
- Where can we always find the answers to help us solve this problem?
- What happens when we pray doubting?

5. Hang in there, you will be handsomely rewarded. *James 1:9-12*

- What is James telling us will be the result of hanging in there?

Read *Ephesians 2:6-7*

- What are these two verses telling us?
- What do we learn about perseverance in this part of James?
- What have we learned about our day to day life from reading *James 1: 1-12*?
- Who is an example for us when we think about going through a tough trial?
- Who gave Him help? Can we count on the same help and if so, where does this help come from?