

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

**JAMES**

These questions are for the **May 5, 2015 Sermon**, "Times of Trials." Please read the sermon passage (James 1:1-11) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

1. **When facing times of trials, we should count it all joy (2-4)**
  - A. Trials should be evaluated.
  - B. The person within you (Christ) is sufficient to endure the pressures outside you (trials).
2. **When lacking wisdom, we should ask God in faith (5-8)**
  - A. The thing we need most desperately in trials is wisdom (what to do next for the glory of God).
  - B. More important than an explanation from God is a relationship with God when we go through trials.
3. **When examining personal resources, we should recognize what is temporary (9-11)**
  - A. Doubting produces an internal unease that will produce external unease in your relationships with God and others.
  - B. The trial is temporary. God is eternal.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the most difficult trial you are facing in your life?
2. Based on #1, above: Trials do not "make us happy." But as we trust Christ in trials, we can truly count them as joy . . . Christ is greater, Christ is within you, the trial is temporary, Christ is better. Discuss.
3. Based on #1, above: Do you have a friend in your life who knows when to listen to you in your trial and also knows when to exhort you? Do they have "permission" to speak in to your life?
4. Based on #2, above: When we go through a trial, this passage teaches us that we should cry out to God to know how to "live skillfully" ("wisdom"), or to know how to apply his Word to our situation as we trust Christ. But most of us cry out to God simply to "end the trial." Discuss.
5. Based on #3, above: Doubting God in the midst of a trial produces an internal unease that stresses our relationship with God, our understanding of our life and our relationships. How are you overcoming doubts in the midst of trials? How has that brought peace and wisdom to your own heart? How has it settled your relationship with God? With others?