


# James

## Leaders Guide



*Do not merely listen to the word,  
and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

*James 1:22*

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**7. What trial have you faced that confirmed the truth that we can “count it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds”?**

**8. What trial are you facing now where you need strength to persevere to the end? Take time to pray for one another in these areas.**

#### SHARING (ALLOW 15-20 MINUTES)

Consider getting group members to ask themselves, *“What work of power and grace does Christ wish to do in my life right now?”* Let people know that you will give them at least five minutes to reflect silently on this question. Do not be afraid of the silence. After five minutes, if no one feels led to share, move to the next part.

#### PRAYER (ALLOW 10-15 MINUTES)

Consider getting group members to ask themselves, *“How does Christ want to use me to touch the hurts in the world this week?”* Give opportunity for each person to share: *“This week Christ wants to use me to...”* People may also state their personal prayer requests. Close with prayer, focusing on these visions for ministry.

# James

## The power for facing trouble

### Study 2 | James 1:5-8

#### OPENING ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP (ALLOW 30-30 MINUTES)

**Remind the group of its purpose:** Consider beginning by reading the following: “We are here to know and experience Christ Jesus ministering to us, and using us to minister to one another. He said, ‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst.’ ‘I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.’ ‘The Father and I will abide with you.’ ‘The Spirit will be in you and with you.’ We believe Jesus does just what he promised. We acknowledge his presence and welcome him into our midst.”

**Prayer:** Thank God for his promises and presence. Ask him to be at work in the group.

**Worship:** Consider reading Psalm 107:1-22 in three segments (1-9; 10-16; 17-22). Explain to the group that, after a segment is read aloud, members may spontaneously offer prayers of praise and adoration in response. After the three segments have been read and people have had the opportunity to respond, the leader should close the time of worship.

#### BIBLE STUDY: James 1:5-8 (ALLOW 35 MINUTES)

- 1. How is James’s exhortation in these verses connected to the immediately preceding verses?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. Why is prayer so important when facing troubles and trials? What role does prayer usually play in your life during difficult times?**

**3. What is “wisdom”? How does it differ from knowledge?**

**4. How does one get wisdom — and how do you know when you’ve got it? Can you recount an experience when God gave you wisdom in the midst of troubles? How did it come to you?**

**5. What does verse 5 tell us about the character of God? How does it correct our tendency to see God as hard, austere, and difficult to please? How have you seen God display his generosity in his relationship to you?**

**6. What is the nature and character of the doubt James addresses in verses 6-8? How is this doubt different from legitimate doubt? What is the double-minded person doubting about God that makes the doubt particularly sinister?**

**7. What have you found to be effective ways to deal with double-mindedness in your life?**

#### SHARING (ALLOW 15-20 MINUTES)

Consider getting each person to ask themselves, *"What work of his power and grace does Christ wish to do in my life right now?"* Perhaps people are going through trials for which God wishes to give them wisdom. This would be an appropriate thing to share. Let people know that you will give them at least five minutes of silence to reflect on this question. Do not be afraid of the silence. If people begin sharing, this will often provide opportunities for group members to minister to one another and pray for one another. If after five minutes no one feels led to share, move to the next part.

#### PRAYER (ALLOW 10-15 MINUTES)

Consider getting group members to ask themselves, *"How does Christ want to use me to touch the hurts in the world this week?"* Give opportunity for each person to share: "This week Christ wants to use me to..." People may also state their personal prayer requests. Close with prayer focusing on these visions for ministry.







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SHARING AND PRAYER

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SHARING AND PRAYER