

James 1:1-18 What to do in trials...

1. We have all heard the old adage – suffering can make you better, but it can also make you bitter. What factors do you think tip the scales one way or the other?

Read James 1:5-11

2. For the biblical writers wisdom was a practical understanding of how the world worked. God having knit a pattern, a fabric into every aspect of life. In order to navigate successfully through life we would need wisdom, an understanding of the fabric that God has knit into that aspect of life. If we lack this wisdom, James encourages us to ask God for it. How are we to ask, and what would this look like practically?
3. James says that the God we ask is a generous giver who gives without reproach. How does this picture of God address some of our fears or hesitations in asking?

Read James 1:12

4. How does the promise of eternal life reframe our experience of the various trials of life?

Read James 1:13-18

5. Every trial is a temptation. When various trials hit there is the tendency to use every means at our disposal to bring things back to the way that they were. We could lie, manipulate, bully, strong arm, jettison convictions, break commitments, bend our moral compass. James is exposing our innate tendency when we succumb to temptation to push the blame outward. How might we blame God for our succumbing to temptation and why do you think we do it?
6. James want us in our various trials to focus on the character of God. The father of lights who gives every good and perfect gift, most notably what he has done for his through the word of truth Jesus, through his death and resurrection. How can fixing our eyes on Jesus reframe our experience of the various trials of life?