



Living Faith Matures Through Trials

January 9, 2022
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read James 1:1-18 and Recap the Sermon.

1. What stood out to you from the Scriptures or the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?

Read James 1:1-4.

2. How have you seen a temptation in the past to just "make it" through trials? How is God inviting you to let trials mature you, rather than simply make it through them?

Read James 1:5-12.

3. In the sermon, we said the four steps we should take to let trials mature us is: (1) ask God for wisdom, (2) view ourselves rightly, (3) live for God's reward, and (4) trust in God's character. Which of these (one or multiple) do you see a need for in your life in the midst of your trials? Which seems to be most difficult for you, and how can you step into that area this year?

Read James 1:13-18.

4. In the sermon, we said - "because God has saved us from our sin, we can trust that He will be with us in our sorrow." How does the good news of the gospel give you the ability to hope and trust in God and His faithfulness in trials?

Time of Prayer.

5. Pray for our church as we enter into this series on James together. Pray that God would use it in a mighty way to grow and mature our church into living faith in Him.

ENGAGE THE HEART

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes