

FAITH TO FACE TRIALS WITH JOY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 1:2-4

1 How have the trials that you have experienced brought you closer to, or pushed you further away from God? How have trials affected your faith?

2 When you read James 1:2-4, it seems like suffering is a major way in which God produces maturity and perseverance in us. Why do you think trials refine us so well?

3 Think through the themes, hardship, perseverance, and wisdom. Jot down some meditation points to share with the group from the following passages. What does God want us to know and do in the midst of trials?

 James 1:1-5

 Romans 5:1-5

 1 Peter 1:3-9

4 In the midst of difficulty why is it so important to focus on God instead of the trial? Write down some names of God that provide comfort in trials, or perhaps some encouraging verses to share with your group.

 Names of God:

 Encouraging verses:

 Think about a few of the most difficult trials you have faced. Do you think you responded well or poorly? Why?

 What thoughts or beliefs dominated your mind and your emotions in each circumstance?

5 Are we supposed to deny our feelings when we “count it all joy” in the midst of trials (James 1:2)? Is it sin to feel sorrow and grief in a trial? If not, how do these feelings fit in with God’s call for joy? Look at the questions below to help guide you in your thoughts about joy.

 How is joy distinct from happiness (see 2Cor. 6:10; 7:4-6)

