

**Rough Roads Ahead
James 1:2-12**

Small Group Discussion Guide

Uncomfortable Truth: Trials in life are _____

Key Point: When facing a trial, how _____ is more important than how _____

Truths about Trials:

1. God is _____ over our trials

"There is nothing—no circumstance, no trouble, no testing—that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose..."

- Alan Redpath

2. God uses trials to _____

○ **The goal of our faith is to _____**

○ **We can't grow better _____ halfway through the process**

How to persevere in Trials:

1. Trust in _____

• **If we're not going to listen, then don't _____**

2. Rely on God's _____

3. Look forward to God's _____

As you think back on the sermon, was there a principle or idea that you found clarifying, challenging or confusing?

Have you ever encountered a difficult situation where you thought it was impossible for any good to come out of it, only to realize later that it was an important part of your personal growth? If so, explain.

What are the greatest spiritual dangers people face in tough times?.

Read James 1:2. How does this verse seem unreasonable from a human perspective? Read James 1:3. How does the word "because" in this verse give believers a new perspective on the purpose of trials?

Why is James so insistent on the need for perseverance or endurance? Consider James 5:10-11; Romans 5:3- 4; and Hebrews 12:1-2. How is wisdom related to endurance?

Read James 1:12; Matthew 5:3-12; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; and 1 Peter 1:3-9. How do these verses change what we live for on earth?

When we pray in faith, does that mean believing that God will give us what we ask, or trusting that he will give us what we need? What difference would each attitude make to the way we pray?

Trials are inevitable and God intends for them to deepen our faith. Identify one trial you are facing right now. How does knowing that truth change the way you view your struggle?

What are the most important things you have learned about God from James 1:2-12?

How does our view of God affect our *attitude about* and our *response to* hard times?

One way to help you see the good of God's work and "count it pure joy" when life is tough is to be aware of his goodness before you're in the heat of the hardship. Make a list of 5-10 things that you are thankful God has done for you (try to focus more on the non-material). After making the list, circle your top two.

Pray for one another...