



## Joy in Trials

**James 1: 2-4 | Thomas Slager**

Leaders: Here are the questions for our sermon on James from this past Sunday.

### **Also, two things:**

1. **Please RSVP for our leader mtg this coming weekend** after the 10:45am service. We need everyone to attend. Thanks.
2. This coming Sunday at **9:00am in the Student B room is a workshop-style, interactive class on "How to Start and Steer Conversations with Non-Christians."** As Highlands equips us for the Green Dot Initiatives (lobby map) to live on mission, this class is super valuable. Please let everyone in your group know...and they can then attend the 10:45am service, so they don't have to miss church. Blessings!

### **Grow in Your Faith**

Read: James 1:1-4, Romans 8:28, Proverbs 3:5-6, John 16:33

1. Why do believers sometimes hide that they are going through troubles when James tells us to "count it all joy"? What does it mean to count it all joy when trouble comes our way?
2. Pastor Thomas said that our growth as a believer requires pain. What do you think he meant by that? Have you found that to be true? Give an example where being in trouble or experiencing difficulty caused you to grow spiritually.
3. This passage tells us that God tests our faith to produce steadfastness. What does steadfastness look like in the life of a Believer?
4. James 1:4 says that trials produce steadfastness and that steadfastness has the effect of making a believer "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing". Share your thoughts on this verse.

**Connect in Community**

5. Small groups are places where people can share the trials and tests they are going through. How can we make our group a place where we offer openness, care, and support as a normal part of our time together? How can we make our group a safe place to share the trials, tests, and the joy James is talking about in this passage? Talk about characteristics that your group has or needs to have.

6. Thomas shared that the final outcome of our testing and trials is endurance. How are you better at handling trials and enduring than you were two years ago? What trial had the biggest effect on your endurance? How did a community help?

**Live on Mission**

7. In this passage James is writing to believers going through trials and testing. What would you say to someone outside the faith that is going through trials and hard times?