Sermon Discussion Guide

06.1.25 Message | Tyler Myers | James 1:1-18

Key Scripture (ESV):

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

James 1:1–18

Message Highlights:

- Learning at the feet of Jesus should always lead to walking in the ways of Jesus.
- Trials and hardships are bridges toward maturity, not detours from it.
- Unchecked desires can become destructive and lead us away from wholeness.
- God's gifts are always good—even when life doesn't feel that way.
- True faith is demonstrated through perseverance, not just in belief.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something you've learned the hard way that turned out to shape you for the better?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- Tyler said during the sermon that "learning at the feet of Jesus must lead to walking in his ways." What's an area where you feel the Spirit nudging you to take a step?
- Tyler taught that trials are not roadblocks but bridges. What trial are you currently facing, and how could it shape your faith?
- Tyler explained how desire can shift from healthy to harmful. How can you recognize when your desires are starting to drift?
- Tyler emphasized the consistency of God's character. How does remembering that "every good and perfect gift is from above" help you in times of doubt?
- Tyler said that faith is more than belief—it's about perseverance. Where in your life is perseverance being tested?

THINK DEEPER

- How does James redefine what it means to experience joy in the midst of hardship?
 (James 1:2–4)
- What does James reveal about wisdom and the attitude we need to receive it? (James 1:5–6)
- Why does James warn against double-mindedness, and how do we fight against it? (James 1:8)
- What does James mean by the crown of life, and how does that reframe our present suffering? (James 1:12)
- How does the imagery of temptation growing into sin and then death help us understand the seriousness of unchecked desires? (James 1:14–15)

THINK LIFE CHANGE

- What Christian practice could help you become more resilient in seasons of hardship?
- What does seeking God's guidance look like in your everyday life? How can you incorporate asking God for wisdom into a regular part of your spiritual routine?
- How honest are you with yourself and the Lord in regards to the challenges you face in life? Where do you need to be more honest about the temptations you're facing?

- Who in your life is walking through a trial and needs encouragement to stay the course?
- What one action can you take this week can you take to grown in your faith, that could also impact someone else for the kingdom?
- What practical steps can you take to speak life into someone tempted to give up? Do you know anyone in this season of life? How are you currently investing in them?

THINK KINGDOM

- What is Kingdom character based on what we heard in the sermon? How do enduring trials build Kingdom character in us?
- Why is walking in the ways of Jesus more powerful than just talking about him?