



# HTC SMALL GROUP

## *Discussion Questions*

**Sermon Title:** The Perfect-ing Storm

**Sermon Date:** August 6, 2017

**Scripture:** James 1:1-4

**Speaker:** Pastor Matt Peca

1. We learn that James is written by the half-brother of Jesus. Compare John 7:5 and James 1:1. Discuss why you think Jesus' own family did not believe in Him and what events led to such a conversion in James. Also, discuss the title James gives both himself and to Jesus in James 1:1.
2. It may be encouraging for you to learn that it was hard even for Jesus to lead some of His own family members to faith. Can you relate? Have you noticed the challenge to lead your own family to Jesus (whether that be your parents, siblings, spouse, kids, etc)? Discuss. Why do you think that's often the case?
3. We may sometimes refer to trials or difficulties in our life as storms. If you feel comfortable sharing, what is one of the worst trials you have ever had to deal with?  
*\* (Leaders: You may want to emphasize confidentiality among the group at this point)*
4. James 1:2 tells us, "Consider it pure **JOY** whenever you face trials." Compare the following verses: (John 16:33, Romans 5:3-5; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Philippians 4:4-7; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Psalm 94:18-19; Habakkuk 3:17-18). What is the congruent theme in these verses? Is there any passage that seems to speak to your soul? Why?
5. It's been said, "Christians are a lot like tea bags, you don't know what they are made of until you put them into hot water." How do "trials many of kinds" (big ones or small ones) test our faith?
6. How can God use trials in someone's life?
7. Do you have any examples in your life where you could clearly see - either immediately or later on - what God was doing in you or trying to teach you from a trial?
8. When we think of one in Scripture undergoing trials (or a perfect storm) we may think of Job. Yet consider this, throughout the Scriptures we find God speaking to people through a burning bush, a pillar of fire, a donkey, a fleece on the ground, a hand on the wall, a gentle whisper, through angels, dreams and visions, etc - yet God chose to speak to Job out of a storm (Job 40:6). Why do you think God chose this method?