

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

What do you remember as one of the most difficult tests you had to pass in high school or college?  
Did you pass?

What do you know about the book of James? What do you think would be missing from the Bible if we didn't have this book?

**Greeting (1)**

How is James' humility in his greeting a challenge to you?

Who are "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion?"

**1. Count it joy (2) (2 Corinthians 7:4)**

Discuss how you experience the difference between joy and happiness.

What are some evidences that you are "count[ing] in all joy when you meet trials of various kinds?"

**2. Live the benefits (3) (Hebrews 12:2)**

What is the connection between "trials" (v. 2), and "testing" (v. 3)?

A testing of our faith is not:

- punishment
  - God turning his back on us (Hebrews 13:5)
- Why do we sometimes feel this way?

Discuss the idea that "every trial is an opportunity." How have you experienced this in your own life?

**3. Become complete (4)**

What are some synonyms for "steadfastness?"

Verse 4 indicates that fully effective steadfastness in us will make us "perfect" and "complete?" What does that look like practically in our lives?

For deeper study this week, reread James 1:1-4, and consider the following questions beyond the sermon notes:



What else shines from these verses, impacts, draws attention?



What is difficult to understand in these verses? What would you like to ask the writer, or the Lord?



What are other points of personal application for your life from these verses?