

# The Book

## of James

### LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE—WEEK ONE

#### MAIN IDEA

The Book of James was written to a church that was scattered and couldn't meet all together due to circumstances beyond their control. We're experiencing a similar separation as a church today. In difficult times like these, trials and temptations are inevitable, but God will empower us to persevere as we live out our faith.

#### MAKE IT PRACTICAL

- God is going to use trials to mature us. Ask God for His perspective, and trust His process.
- Times of trial give us an opportunity to draw closer to God. Ask Him to guide you, and stand firm in faith.
- Satan wants to use temptation to destroy us. Understand “the process of temptation” (deception, desire, disobedience, death), and be real about your weaknesses.
- We can use temptation as a target of growth. Remember “ACDC”: Avoid the situation, Counter with the Word, Develop healthy friendships, Commit to prayer. When you are tempted, with God's help, you can overcome and live in victory.

**“CONSIDER IT PURE JOY, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHENEVER YOU FACE TRIALS OF MANY KINDS, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.”**

*JAMES 1:2-3*

#### TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it look like to truly trust God in the middle of a trial? Share about a time in your life when God empowered you to persevere through something difficult.
2. In times of trial, do you tend to trust God or fight for control? In what ways do you need to fully surrender to God?
3. In which of the four “ACDC” steps do you need to grow the most? What is a practical way to strengthen that part of your life?

**“IF WE DON'T QUIT, WE WIN.”**

## PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to meet together and build healthy relationships, even in the midst of trials and temptation. As we walk through this time, help us see from Your perspective, trust Your process, and overcome temptation so we can live in Your victory.

## LEADER TIPS

- Ask each of your group members what they hope to gain out of this semester. (Their answers will help you identify what their next step could be.)
- Other questions to ask:
  - What is one area you feel challenged in?
  - What led you to this Small Group?
- Create a group message where your group can communicate throughout the semester (via GroupMe, text, etc.).
- Pray for group members by name daily.