

Read James 1:2-12

In v2 James mentions trials of many kinds. What do you think were some of the trials that James encountered? Describe some of the trials you have faced in life, both big and small. What trials are you facing at the moment?

James also tells us how we should respond to trials. How do you naturally respond to trials? We were urged to “look through the trial” – what does this mean?

James says that trials lead to perseverance (v3). What does perseverance look like? When have you seen perseverance at work in someone’s life? How much do you see it at work in your own life?

Perseverance leads to maturity (v4). What is spiritual maturity? Talk about someone you know who is spiritually mature — what are some of the characteristics that they have that show Christian maturity? Consider your own life – would you say that you are spiritually mature? What are some areas of your life that need attention?

In v5, James talks about wisdom. What is wisdom? Can you think of examples of men and women in the Bible who are described as being full of wisdom. How do we attain wisdom?

We discovered that ‘Faith is a willingness to trust in the goodness of God’ and doubt is saying, ‘I refuse to trust in God.’ Can you think of areas in your life where you have doubt? How can you turn that doubt into trust?

The statement was made that “suffering is meaningless.” Do you agree or disagree with this? What role does suffering have in your Christian life?

This sermon has looked at the way that we respond to trials. Think about one of the trials that you are currently facing. How are you going to respond to this trial in the light of what James has taught us? How can you see God through this trial?

And for a final challenge – the sermon talked about Scripture Memory. How about committing to memorising a passage of Scripture? This passage from James 1:2-12 would be a great place to start.