

## Persevering Through Trials Discussion Questions

### James 1:1-18

1. Describe a time in your life where you felt beaten down by life. How do you feel you did spiritually during that time in your life?
2. What would you need to do in your life to meet the definition of bondservant (a person consumed in fulfilling the will of his Master)?
3. Read James 1:2. How can we find joy in our trials? How does this benefit us?
4. What strikes you about Warren Wiersbe's comment: "Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to 'count it all joy!' If we live only for the present and forget about the future, the trials will make us bitter, not better. What does your usual response to trials tell you that you value?"
5. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
6. Read James 1:3-4. How do trials purify us like precious metals? Why is this process difficult or painful?
7. Why is it important to endure trials and temptations?
8. What are we supposed to do if we lack wisdom according to James 1:5? Why don't we ask God for wisdom more often than we do? What is God's promise to those who ask for wisdom?
9. What do you usually pray for when going through trials? In light of this passage, what should your prayer be when facing trials?
10. Why do we blame others, God, and Satan for our failures instead of ourselves?
11. Read James 1:13-14. According to these verses, what is the source of our temptations?
12. How can we make sure our desires do not lead us astray?
13. How are temptations personal?
14. How close do you think you are to moral catastrophe? Explain your answer.
15. Which of the life lesson from fishing resonates with you and why?

16. Why is it important we understand ourselves? How do we learn about ourselves including the things we may be blind to? What are the dangers of not understanding ourselves?
17. Why are there times when we have long-lasting consequences for our choices?
18. Why do we continue to return to the lure of the “old life” when we have been freed of it?
19. What is the process of temptation? Why is it important to understand how temptation works? Where is the best place to deal with temptation?
20. How can you deal with temptation when it has passed the desire point of the process?
21. How does focusing on God instead of the temptation solve the problem?
22. How does changing our perspective from blaming God for our trials to seeing God as good, great, and a giver affect the way we face our trials and get through them?