

JESUS' BROTHER, CHALLENGES OUR HEARTS

Talk 1 – Facing Trials – James 1:1-15

Small group questions

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

1. Was there anything in the message which stood out for you – or which you didn't understand?

The passage identifies four keys to facing trials:

By seeing the big picture – read vv2-4 and v12

2. How do you typically view trials in the context of your life's journey?
3. Why does James associate trials with joy?
4. How can understanding the "big picture" of God's plans, help to reshape our perspective on trials?

By asking for wisdom – read vv5-7

5. Share a time when you actively sought God's wisdom during a trial. How did it shape the outcome or your perspective?
6. How do you distinguish between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom, especially when facing challenges?
7. James encourages believers to ask for wisdom without doubting. Discuss a time when doubt affected your prayers or relationship with God.

By seeing reality as God sees it – read vv9-11

8. If you're struggling in poverty, how would understanding God's grace help you?
9. If you're struggling as a rich person, how would understanding God's grace help you?
10. Both poor and rich Christians have been rescued by God – the poor – from the pit of despair to stand on the rock which is Christ. The rich – from the arrogance of wealth to come to God in repentance and humility. Both realities, give perspective and cause for thanks, even in the midst of trial. Does this make sense to you?

By seeing temptation for what it is – read vv13-15

11. How do you differentiate between trials and temptations in your personal experiences?
12. Why is it crucial to recognize that God doesn't tempt anyone, and how does this understanding guide us during difficult times?
13. What radical steps have you taken to be strong in the face of certain temptations?
14. Are there any personal takeaways for you from either the message or this discussion?

End the session with a time of prayer. Reflect on any trials you're currently facing. Pray for wisdom, a God-centered perspective, and strength to resist any temptations which arise as a result of the trial. Thank the Lord for his guidance and that no matter our circumstances, we are his precious children.