

WISDOM FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

James 1.1-12

BACKGROUND

James was the first pastor over the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15 and 21). James wrote this letter about 7 to 10 years after Jesus was killed, in the early to mid 40's AD. James himself was eventually martyred in 62 AD for his faith. He is also known to be the younger half-brother of Jesus.

James, being a Jew and leading the church in Jerusalem, is writing his letter primarily to Jews who believed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah that God sent to save the Jewish people, hence his reference to the "twelve tribes of the dispersion."

TRIALS AND TEMPTATION

James 1.2-4

Trials and temptation are a when, not an if. The Greek word here used for "trial" and later as "temptation" is the same word. It means to "put the test" in a hostile sense.

God will take you where you haven't intended to go in order to produce in you what you could not achieve on your own.

The way you respond to difficulty will show what is most important to you. It shows what you truly value.

Do you run when there is conflict?

- Comfort and self-preservation is most important to you.

Do you blow up in anger?

- Being in control is most important to you.

Do you hold grudges or go silent?

- Being right is most important to you.

When there is conflict, do you just try to fly under the radar and avoid it?

- The praise of man and being accepted is most important to you.

ASKING FOR WISDOM WITHOUT DOUBT

James 1.5-12

God will give wisdom because He is good and wants to give it. But the qualifier is that we must not be double minded. This isn't simple doubt like we might think, but it means to have two agendas.

**The instability of your life (outside circumstances)
has nothing to do with your distance from God.
It is the disloyalty of your heart.**

- Paul Tripp

NOTES:

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We'd love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

In our children's ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, we have classes for **newborns-5th grade**, along with a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walk-through of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Katie McGinty at Katie@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th-8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshipping with the adults** and then head to their class with their teacher and classmates for the rest of the service. Visit our website to read more about our Junior High Ministry and a walk-through of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders** stay in the service with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate high school. Our **wid-week High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM**, here at Classical Academy in the Study Hall. For more info or questions about our student ministries, email **Casey Barnes at Casey@lifemission.tv**.

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before your group starts, is there anyone who can share the Memory Verse?

Read **James 1:1-13**. What stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Pastor Jobey talked about how the Jewish people, God's chosen people, failed to realize that there would be no possible way to earn forgiveness. How often do you find yourself trying to 'perform' well to earn God's favor? And how often do you find yourself expecting others to perform before offering forgiveness? _____

Re-read **James 1:2-4**. When you face trial, and be honest, do you consider it joy? Jobey talked about ways that we typically respond. Which is your typical response when situations, you would have never planned for yourself, come into your life:

Do you run when there is conflict? _____

Do you blow up in anger? _____

Do you hold grudges? _____

Do you try to fly under the radar and avoid it? _____

What is a recent example of how you have responded this way? What should you have done instead? _____

Why do you think you respond that way? What is ruling your heart that is causing double mindedness? _____

There was a quote from Paul Tripp in the sermon. **"The instability of your life (outside circumstances) has nothing to do with your distance from God. It is the disloyalty of your heart."** As we have seen, and as James commands, we need wisdom. Discuss in your groups which area of life, or circumstance(s), you need to change from your natural reaction to the reaction of asking for wisdom. _____

Read **Psalms 103:15-16** and **James 1:11**. What happens to the things of this world? Read **Isaiah 55:1-7** Do these things satisfy? James gives a picture of wave being tossed to and fro? Read **Hebrews 6:17-20** What keeps us anchored in trials and uncertainty? _____

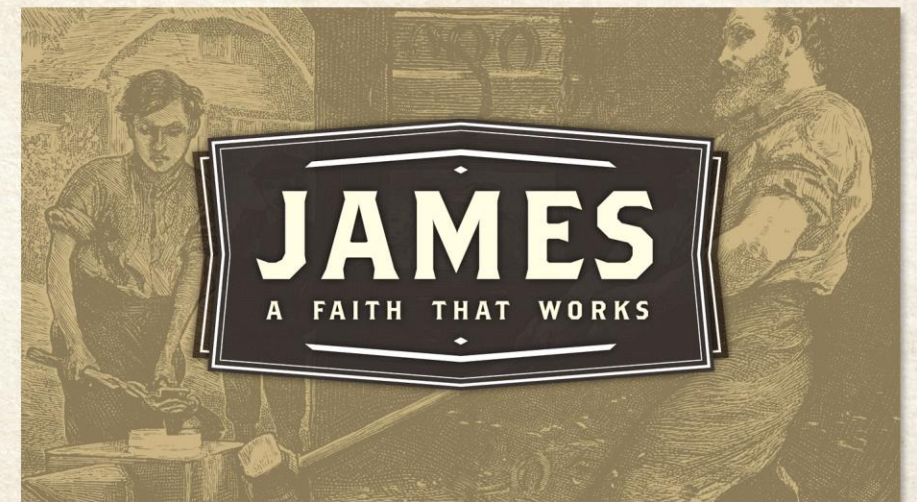
Spend some time as a group and pray that we would seek to see trials as an opportunity to seek God's wisdom.



LIFE MISSION

C H U R C H

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY,
WHO ARE SAVED, EQUIPPED, AND SENT BY THE GOSPEL.



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James 1:1-12 // June 25, 2017

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

LIFEMISSIONCHURCH.COM

