

The Test

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GROW UP

Today's Core Truth: Life is a test not for us to pass but to become Christlike.

James 1:1 (NIV)

James 1:2–4 (NIV)

Learning that Life is only a test....

⇒ **Ask " _____ " over "why?"**

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

⇒ **You faith is as _____ as it is tested.**

Proverbs 17:3 (NIV)

Three-question trial test.

1. Do you believe that God is in control?
2. Do you believe that God is good?
3. Are you willing to wait by faith until you see it?

This Week's Spiritual Practice:

Commit 30 minutes this week to have complete quiet time and ask, "Lord reveal my heart to me?" Write down what you learned, confess any sin and commit to whatever God is calling you to next.

⇒ _____ **is half the battle.**

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *True Testing*

Share Together: What's one of the toughest tests you've ever taken? What made this test so difficult?

Reflect Together: What impacted you the most from Sunday's message, and how is the Spiritual Practice effecting your life or attitude this week?

Read Together: James 1:1-4 (NIV suggested version)

Discuss Together:

- Based on verse 1 and your assumptions about early church persecution, what do you think was James' motivation for the opening topic he wrote to believers?
- How can one have "pure joy" in trials, and how is this different than just being happy?
- In what ways have you been able to find joy in various trials you've endured? Is that even realistic?
- How do you think testing of your faith develops perseverance? How have you seen examples of this in your life or in others' lives?
- Why does perseverance have to "finish its work?" How can God use it to bring maturity, completeness and ultimate contentment in life based on verse 4? How have you see this in your life or in others?
- How have you seen God develop and shape you into the person you are today by testing you through various trials in the past? Share some examples.
- What testing are you currently enduring? How have you handled these trials thus far?
- As you consider the trials you are currently facing, what do you think God is teaching through his testing to help you grow in greater Christ-likeness?
- What steps can you take to better rely on God as you work through your current challenges?

Prayer Together: Share needs in your group to pray for, as well as updates on what God has been doing.