

Scripture: James 1:1-18

OPEN:

1. Is it harder to go through tough times for yourself, or watch someone you love go through hard times?
2. What is your favorite garage sale purchase? Who is your favorite underdog?

DIG:

1. How is it possible to rejoice in difficult circumstances? Does perseverance here imply active overcoming or passive acceptance?
2. Does wisdom here imply exceptional knowledge or moral insight?
3. The passage encourages believers to ask God for wisdom without doubting. What do you think James means by "doubting," and how does doubt affect the way people approach God?
4. In your opinion, what would a brother in humble circumstances have to take pride in? What is low about a rich man's position?
5. James says temptation comes from our own desires, not from God. Why is that distinction important for spiritual growth and personal responsibility? How is the birth process an apt metaphor to distinguish the source, the steps, and the end result of temptation?
6. How does believing God is the giver of every good and perfect gift and that He does not change like shifting shadows shape the way someone faces hardship or uncertainty?

REFLECT:

1. What kind of pain is the hardest for you to endure: physical suffering or emotional loss? What sustains you most in times of stress and trial?
2. What is a “good and perfect gift” that you are thankful for?