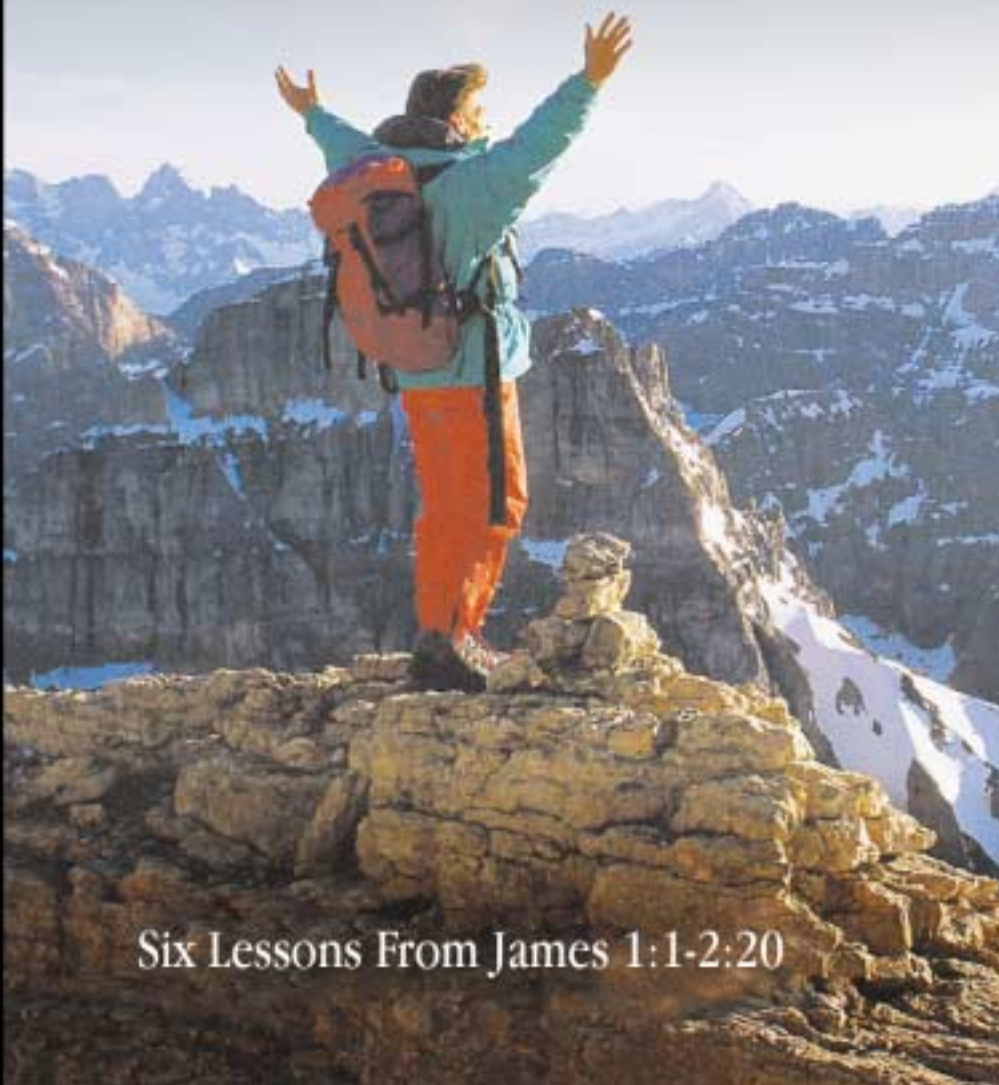


Book of JAMES Volume 1

# Developing A Faith That Works



 PurposeDriven  
SMALL GROUP  
CURRICULUM

Six Lessons From James 1:1-2:20

# TABLE OF

# CONTENTS

My Small Group Roster .....	Inside Front Cover
Foreword .....	1
Introduction to the Purpose Driven Bible Study Series .....	2

## **SMALL GROUP SESSIONS**

Session 1: How to Profit from Your Problems, James 1:2-6 .....	4
Session 2: How to Make Up Your Mind, James 1:5-11 .....	11
Session 3: How to Win Over Temptation, James 1:12-18 .....	19
Session 4: How to Be Blessed by the Bible, James 1:19-27 .....	27
Session 5: How to Treat People Right, James 2:1-13 .....	34
Session 6: How to Have Real Faith, James 2:14-20 .....	41

## **SMALL GROUP RESOURCES (Appendix)**

Frequently Asked Questions .....	50
Group Guidelines and Agreement.....	51
Circles of Life .....	52
Small Group Calendar .....	53
Small Group Purpose Team Roles .....	54
Purpose Driven Health Assessment .....	56
Purpose Driven Health Plan .....	58
Spiritual Partners Heart Check.....	59
Small Group Prayer and Praise Report .....	60
Memory Verses .....	63

# 1

SESSION ONE:  
HOW TO PROFIT  
FROM YOUR PROBLEMS

JAMES 1:1-6

# HOW TO PROFIT FROM YOUR PROBLEMS

## CONNECT .....15 MINUTES

Instructions - If your group is unable to work through the entire curriculum, we have recommended one question or activity with an asterisk (\*) in each section of the study.



1. How long have you been attending our church? How did you come to be a part of this group?
2. \*What are one or two things you're hoping that being a part of this small group will do for you (e.g., develop relationships, deepen your faith, help you learn...)?

## GROW .....35-40 MINUTES



James doesn't say "if" you encounter problems; he says "when." In this world we will have troubles. Jesus himself said this in John 16:33. These problems come when we least expect them—all kinds of them. But they do serve several purposes in our lives.

**Memory Verse** *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance"* James 1:2-3 (NIV)



Watch the video now. Follow along in your Bibles and take notes on the provided outline.

# BOOK OF JAMES

## DEVELOPING FAITH

*"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. [6] But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."* James 1:2-6

### FOUR FACTS OF LIFE YOU NEED TO KNOW

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."* James 1:2-3

1. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_
2. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_
3. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_
4. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_

### THREE VALUES OF PROBLEMS

*"...the testing of your faith produces perseverance...so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* James 1:3b-4

- Problems purify my \_\_\_\_\_
- Problems fortify my \_\_\_\_\_
- Problems sanctify my \_\_\_\_\_
- God's Ultimate Purpose in my life: Building the \_\_\_\_\_ into my life.

### HOW TO HANDLE YOUR PROBLEMS

1. \_\_\_\_\_

We don't rejoice \_\_\_\_\_ the problem, but we rejoice \_\_\_\_\_ the problem.

*"In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB)

# HOW TO PROFIT FROM YOUR PROBLEMS

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."* James 1:5 (NIV)

- Pray for \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt..."* James 1:6 (NIV)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share why James says to "consider it pure joy" when you encounter problems. What assurance did James have about the results that would come from these trials in life (vs. 3,4)?
2. \*James urges three godly responses to problems: Rejoice, pray, and relax. Which of these responses is the most difficult for you when you are facing a problem? Why?
3. Most of the time we don't understand why problems come our way or what their purpose could be. In verse 5, how does James encourage us? How can these words help us when we find ourselves in circumstances that don't make sense to us?

Depending on the size of your group, time availability, or stage of maturity, additional questions are provided at the end of this lesson for your group to study. You may want to use these questions as suggested homework each week or turn there now for extended discussion.

# BOOK OF JAMES

## DEVELOPING FAITH

### SERVE.....15 MINUTES



*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and*

*salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort."* 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

1. According to the verses above, how can the difficulties of life prepare you and provide opportunities to serve others?
2. \*2 Corinthians 1:3-7 clearly tells us how our own suffering can be used to help others in times of trouble. What are some specific ways God has comforted you in suffering that you might use to comfort others in their times of need?
3. Open to the Group Guidelines and Agreement in the *Small Group Resources* section of the study guide, page 51. Take a few minutes to review these group guidelines as you begin this study of the Book of James. A little bit of time spent on this could prevent disappointment over unmet expectations.

### SHARE.....10 MINUTES



Problems often provide us with opportunities to purify our faith, fortify our patience, and sanctify our character. As we see God's work in our lives, we naturally desire to share with others what God has done for us.

1. In what ways can a life that has "profited from problems" open doors to sharing Christ with those around us?

# HOW TO PROFIT FROM YOUR PROBLEMS

2. \*Turn to the Circles of Life page in the Small Group Resources section on page 52. Use this tool to help you identify those around you who need to know Jesus. Make a plan to invite them to join you the next time this group meets. Ask the group to pray for them this week.

## WORSHIP ..... 20 MINUTES



As you close your meeting, take time to pray for each other.

1. \*For some of you, praying in a group may be a new experience; that's OK. Try praying just one sentence. Pray something like, "Thank you Lord for showing me a new perspective on my problems."
2. Pray for those who shared struggles they are facing, and pray for those you want to invite to join the group at the next meeting.

To maximize prayer time and allow greater opportunity for personal sharing, break into subgroups of 3-4 people. This is especially important if your group is more than eight people. Write prayer requests on the Small Group Prayer and Praise Reports, page 60.

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. Take a few minutes to look at the Small Group Calendar in the Small Group Resources section, page 53. Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. Fill out the calendar together noting where you will meet each week, who will facilitate, and who will provide a meal or snack. Note special events, socials, or days off as well. This would be a great role for someone to coordinate for the group.
2. Also, start collecting basic contact information like phone numbers and email addresses. The Group Roster on the inside cover of your study guide is a good place to keep this information. Pass one or all the study guides in a circle and have each person provide their information to ensure everyone gets the information first hand.

# BOOK OF JAMES

## DEVELOPING FAITH

### ADDITIONAL STUDY

This section is for those who would like to dig a little deeper into the topic we have already discussed. It may be done as homework and then discussed, or worked through together as a group.

1. James' words about trials having purpose in our lives (James 1:3-4) are not a new concept. We see this thought throughout Scripture. Read each of the following verses and briefly discuss what God says about our trials and suffering.

- Matthew 5:11,12
- Romans 5:3-5
- Hebrews 2:10
- Hebrews 12:11
- 1 Peter 1:6,7

2. Share any conclusions you can draw from the previous verses about the benefits or purposes of trials.

3. \*In 2 Corinthians Paul gives us further insight regarding the profit or purpose of suffering in our lives. Read the following verses and identify lessons about persevering that Paul shares from his life experiences.

- 2 Corinthians 1:8,9
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

### PREPARATION FOR NEXT TIME

1. Read James 1:5-11 before the next group meeting to prepare for the Bible study.
2. Be sure to call and invite one of the friends you prayed for in the group this week. Offer to pick him or her up and be sure to get each a study guide before the meeting.
3. Work on this week's memory verse and be prepared to share it with someone at the next meeting. The memory verses are also included on page 63 in the Small Group Resources section. This simple practice will help grow your confidence in God. A simple way to do this is to hand-write the verse 5-8 times on a piece of paper.