



Small Group Study Guide

Settling In Sermon Series • September 13-20

September 20, 2020
“How to Persevere in
Tough Times”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving these extraordinary words we are studying today. And as simplistic as they seem and as insensitive as they seem, give us the wisdom to listen and the courage to embrace this. And Father, would you help all of us catch our breath? So that we can step back and see what you are up to in us and want to be up to through us. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

James 1:2-5 (NIV)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.



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INTRODUCTION

We avoid things we don't like. But sometimes things come our way that we can't avoid. When our circumstances deteriorate, what do we do when there's nothing we can do?

No one likes to go through difficult times, but there is something about difficult times that helps us grow in our faith. James says we should rejoice in our trials because our trials expose the authenticity of our confidence in God and they exercise our faith. So, he tells us to let perseverance complete its work so that you will be complete. Don't rush it. Remember God will use whatever he chooses not to remove. God values and uses persevering faith.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Are there any fall traditions or activity that you will miss this year because of the COVID-19 restrictions? How are you handling the disappointment?
- 2) Has your faith or confidence in God ever been tested? Did you pass? Did you emerge with your faith intact? If so, why? If not, why?
- 3) People don't generally lose faith because of their own suffering. People are more inclined to lose faith because of the suffering of others. Why do you suppose that's the case?
- 4) **Read James 1:2 on page 1.** What stands out to you?
- 5) In addition to your faith being exercised and strengthened, what other positive outcome might result from your current trial(s)?

FINAL APPLICATION

This week pray: *Heavenly Father, use this (your trials) until you choose to remove this.*