

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Boasting****APPLY // JAMES 1:5-8**

Main Idea: Be steadfast in the midst of trials by asking God for wisdom in faith rather than doubting.

1. Read James 1:1-8.
2. In verses 2-4, we're called to be steadfast in our trials by counting it all as joy because they bring about maturity.
 - a. How do verses 5-8 connect to these opening verses?
3. In the midst of trials, James calls us to ask for wisdom. Is this the first thing you typically ask God for in the midst of trials? What do we often ask for? Why do we ask for these things? Why is wisdom the better thing to ask for?
4. How does James describe God in verse 5. How does God's character compel us to ask him for wisdom? How does the truth of the gospel compel us to ask God for wisdom?
5. James tells us to ask sincerely, trusting God will give to us; to not be double-minded, vacillating between saying we trust in God while turning elsewhere for hope and wisdom. What else are we tempted to trust in to help us through trials and temptations? Why is God and his wisdom always a better path forward?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // JAMES 1:9-11

Main Idea: The wisdom of the gospel calls us to count all our trials as joy by focusing on the certainty of heaven and transcendence of earth.

1. Read James 1:2-11.
2. How do verses 9-11 flow from verses 2-8?
3. In verses 9-11, James address two groups of people.
 - a. Who are the "lowly brothers"? Who are the "rich"?
 - b. What types of trials might the "lowly" face?
 - c. What types of trials might the "rich" face?
4. Notice that James tells both the "lowly" and the "rich" to "boast."
 - a. What type of boasting does James have in mind?
 - b. What does it mean for the "lowly" to boast in their "exaltation"?
 - c. What does it mean for the "rich" to boast in their "humiliation"?
 - d. How does this boasting reveal the wisdom of God?
 - e. How is this boasting made possible by the gospel of Jesus Christ?
5. In the last part of verse 10 and in verse 11, James gives reasons for not boasting in money and material wealth.
 - a. What reason and warning does he give?
 - b. Can you think of teachings from Jesus that remind us of the same idea regarding money and material wealth? (Cf. Matthew 6:24; Luke 12:16-21)
6. How does Jesus embody and show the beauty of the truth in James 1:9-11?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in

the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How have you been over the break and how are you doing?