

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Steadfast, Not Sin**APPLY // 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 1:1-11
2. James commands the “lowly brother to boast in his exaltation.” How does this command apply to us? What are some ways you can boast in your exaltation? How does this connect to remaining steadfast in the midst of trials?
3. James commands the “rich brother” to boast in “his humiliation.” How does this command apply to us? What are some ways you can boast in your humiliation? How does this connect to remaining steadfast in the midst of trials?
4. James spends a few verses describing the fleeting nature of material possessions and life itself. Why does James do this? What are some practical things we can do to regularly remember this truth?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // JAMES 1:9-11

Main Idea: Fight temptation and sin by loving God and looking to the reward.

1. Read James 1:12-15.
2. James begins verse 12 by describing the one who remains steadfast under trial as “Blessed.” What does it mean to be “Blessed”?
3. What does it mean to “remain steadfast under trial” and to “[stand] the test”? What seems to be James’ burden in these opening verses?
4. What motivation does James give for remaining steadfast? What is the “crown of life”?
5. To whom has God promised the crown of life? What’s the significant that it’s promised to “those who love him” and not just to those who obey him or to those who do the right thing?
6. There appears to be an abrupt change from verse 12 to verse 13. But remember the Bible is not random. What’s the connection between trials and temptations?
7. Notice James says “Let no one say *when* he is tempted.” What’s the significance that the Bible says “when” not “if” in regards to temptation?
8. James says we are not to blame God for our temptation. What reasons does James give? How are we to think about God not tempting when he’s sovereign over all things? What’s the difference between tempting and testing?
9. Notice verse 14 begins with “each person is tempted.” What’s the significance that James says “each” and not “some”?
10. What does it mean we are “lured and enticed by our own desire”?
11. James says desires conceive and “give birth to sin.” What does this mean? What might this look like in real life?
12. Notice James says sin becomes “fully grown.” What does this mean? What does this tell us about the nature of sin?
13. What does James say sin finally brings forth? What does James mean by death here?
14. How do these verses point us to the person and work of Jesus?

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: What do we have accountability? What is it? What is it not? How are you doing?