



James

Part 7 – How To Handle Hardship Discussion Guide

Ever have things not go as planned? Me too. How did you overcome that obstacle? The Bible book of James teaches us to remember to plan but be sure to include God. This week we will look at some tangible ways to handle hardships. Because this life is but a vapor, while we are here let's humble ourselves and follow God's will for our lives.

Jump Start

1. Have you ever been on vacation and didn't go as planned? Did ever exceed your expectations? Share with your group.
2. Read [James 4: 13-17, Luke 12:19-20, Psalm 90:12, and Psalm 37:5](#). What things do you boast or talk about that you are "going to do" or plan to do? Have you ever been embarrassed when you've talked about doing something, but for some reason, you haven't accomplished it? What types of emotions and actions follow?
3. Read [James 3:17, 1 John 2:15, and Ecclesiastes 1:17](#). Does the wisdom you live by and share with others reflect more of God's wisdom or the world's thought processes? In what areas of your life are you more prone to look veer away from God's wisdom?
4. Read [James 4:15-16 and Matthew 5:14-16](#). "God doesn't exempt us; He examples us." How are you showing the light of Christ right now through this Pandemic? How have you seen God use your journey to help others in the past?
5. Read [James 4:17, Ephesians 2:8-10, and Romans 11:33](#). Considering God's sovereignty. What is one life-changing decision you will make this week (or even today) because of our study today?
6. **Serve and Connect:** Join us as we are the Church. We have the opportunity to meet some basic needs in our communities. Find information regarding the Food Response [Here](#). You can also join a Life Group by clicking [Here](#).

Prayer: God, we know that You are in control and that You love us and want to grow us. Give us wisdom and help us to mature as we follow You. God, thank you for meeting our needs and carrying our burdens. Father, we pray for those that need healing and declare complete healing over their bodies. We pray for our first responders, medical personnel, scientists, jobs, the economy, families, children, finances, and marriages. Take us to new levels of faithfulness. We pray that we can really begin to lean into connection with you.

Help us to develop patient endurance. Help us to grow. You are a good Father, and we trust You with the unknown. May Your will be done. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

This week take time to do the “Deeper” section before you meet with your Group.

Deeper

We will learn how to complete a **S O A P Bible Study** by looking at one passage of Scripture and breaking it down. **S O A P** stands for **S**cripture **O**bservation **A**pplication **P**rayer. Let's get ready to sit down with the Bible and see to what God wants to show us. Completing this study during your quiet time, then sharing with your Life Group, can allow for deeper understanding and revelation of new perspectives. **Things you will need:** Bible, Notebook, Pen.

7. **Scripture.** Read [1 Kings 19](#). What stands out to you the most about these verses?

Take time to read the passage and allow God to speak to you. Jot down anything that made you stop and pause or anything that you questioned. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it out fully in your journal.

8. **Observe.** What is God saying to you in this text? What did the whole story teach you? What did that specific verse that you were drawn to teach you?

What do you think God is saying to you, personally and specifically, in this Scripture? (You can even have a short prayer at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Remember that He promised to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us when we ask.)

9. **Application.** How will you apply this when you feel like running?

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections in a particular area of your life. Write down how this Scripture applies to you today.

10. **Pray.** Pray about what you have read in [1 Kings 19](#). Pray your special verse back to God, asking Him to help you understand and apply it.

This prayer can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so take time here! Be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out. Journaling your quiet time helps you to see what God is teaching you over time.