

## Faith and Adversity

### James 1:1-12

*Struggles and hard seasons, whether ordained by God or merely brought about by this broken world, show the Christ follower that we need God for more than just salvation. They are a critical part of our \_\_\_\_\_ process.*

**Discussion 1. What processes or disciplines help you see your struggles through a lens of “rejoicing”? Are you getting better at it over time? Can you recall an example of a struggle in your life over which you can now look back and rejoice?**

*The world says, “Give me your counsel and I will decide whether or not to follow it.” Christ followers pray, “God give me your counsel, and I will follow it even if I don’t fully understand it.” Godly wisdom requires \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 2. If God’s wisdom is available to any Christ follower who asks, why do you suppose we so often lack it: is it because we do not ask or is it because we do not really intend to follow it? Explain your answer.**

*Authentic Christian faith does not find our identity in our social status nor in our economic status. Our identity is grounded in something much more \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3. Who do you think is more prone to finding his/her identity in social or economic status: the wealthy person or the poor person? How do you prevent yourself from becoming too obsessed with your social or economic status?**

*God promises eternal rewards for those of us who deconstruct our faith in the face of adversity and then reconstruct a stronger, more \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 4. If you have ever had a crisis of your faith, what helped you get through it? If you have ever walked with someone who was having a crisis of faith, how did you help them get through it?**

**Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?**