



## CIAJ

**Main Scripture:** James 1:1-5, 12

**Additional Scriptures:** John 16:33, Acts 14:22, Philippians 3:7-9, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 12:2

### Hearing: Discussion Questions

- **Read James 1:1-5.** How do you react to trials in your life?
- **Read Acts 14:22.** Why do you think we *need* trials to enter the Kingdom of God?
- **James 1:2-3** in the Message translation says this: “Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors.”
  - Pastor Mike said that there is real faith and fake faith and that trials expose what kind of faith you really have. How do we ensure we have and even solidify “real faith” so that when trials come along we can truly count it all joy?
- “You discover a depth of intimacy with Jesus amongst trials like nothing else can bring.” Have you ever experienced what Pastor Mike is talking about here? Share some testimonies of how this actually plays out in the midst of difficult trials.
- **Read Romans 8:28.** In light of this verse, why or how can we consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds?
  - It is easy to say the theological truth, but how do we find peace while trying to walk this out in what may be the biggest trial of your life?
- Pastor Mike said “You need to let trials have their effect.” What do you think he meant by that?
- Wisdom is learning to think like God thinks. How does God think of trials? What do you think God would be saying as you are going through trials? What do you think He would be specifically saying to you?
  - What are some steps that can help you start thinking more along those lines on an everyday basis?
- **Read Hebrews 12:2.** Pastor Mike talked about “thinking forward” when in trials. What can we glean from Jesus’ example in this verse? How can we apply that to our own trials and tribulations?

### Doing: Application

- Spend some time praying for the mind of Christ so that when you do face trials you can honestly say that you count it all joy. If you are going through a trial meditate on the verses above and really let that permeate and change your outlook.