

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



October 15, 2023

“Trials” - #1 in the series James: A Faith That Works

Texts (NLT) Referenced: James 1:1-8, 19-25; John 16:33

1. What stood out to you about the message?

2. Consider these definitions of the word *trial*:
 - a. *A formal examination of evidence before a judge and/or jury*
 - b. *A clinical test of the performance or suitability of someone or something*
 - How do these definitions inform your spiritual perspective on what it means to experience trouble - a trial?

3. **Read James 1: 2-4.**

James’ interpretation of trouble as an opportunity for “great joy” seems counterintuitive.

 - How might he have arrived at that perspective?
 - What do you think it means to be “perfect and complete, needing nothing” as a result of enduring trials?

4. **Read James 1:5-7**
 - Why might seeking God for wisdom in the midst of a trial require being bold in our faith?
 - Can you recall a situation when God showed you how to endure a troubling situation?

5. **Read James 1:19-25.**
 - Why is listening so difficult when we’re in the midst of a troubling situation?
 - How do trials often provoke our anger and why does James caution against it?

5. **Read John 16:33.**
 - Why might Jesus have acknowledged the inevitability of trials in addressing his followers?

6. How can we pray for you?