

TEA lifegroups

study guide

Week 1

Session 1: James 1:1–18

Small Group Leader Guide

OPEN — Icebreaker

Ask:

What's the best meal you make?

What are the ingredients, and how do you make it?

Leader Note:

This connects to an illustration Francis Chan uses in the video, so listen for it.

READ

Read James 1:1–18 aloud. (Have one person read the scriptures aloud or split the scriptures amongst 2-3 people)

Ask everyone to follow along and listen for the main ideas.

WATCH

Watch Sessions 1 and 2: James 1:1–18 (*Approximately 15 min.*)

DISCUSS

1. What to Do When Life Gets Hard.

Read James 1:2–4 again.

(Trials can strengthen our faith and make us more mature. We don't have to enjoy suffering. But we can have joy in knowing that God can use difficult circumstances to grow us.)

Ask:

- Why would he tell us to consider trials “joy”?
- Do we sometimes expect God to make our lives easier or happier?

2. What About Doubt?

Read James 1:5–8.

(James tells us to ask God for **wisdom** when we face difficulties.)

Ask:

- Why do we need wisdom when we're going through trials?
- What does it look like to trust God when we don't understand what He's doing?

3: Temptation is like fishing.

Read James 1:14-15.

(There's something in us that longs for the things God says are wrong or evil. You have a choice then. Just like a fish that's being lured away, either I go and I grab it, or I swim away.)

Ask:

- Does "evil desire" always bring forth "death"?... What examples could you give?
- In light of this, what's the best way to deal with our "evil desires"?

Key Point

When life gets difficult, don't run away from God—run toward Him.

We may have questions and doubts. James encourages us to **keep coming to God, ask Him for wisdom, and trust Him through the process.**

LAST WORD — Personal Reflection

Leader: Encourage everyone this week to reflect on these questions during their personal devotion time.

Ask:

Where might God be "smelting" or refining you right now:

- What is He teaching you?
- What might He be removing from your life?
- How are you growing through the difficulty?