



Conversations On Who We Are Becoming

Week 1: Conversations about trials of many kinds

Opening Questions

1. What have you been doing during this time of home quarantine?
2. What emotions have you experienced as we have been sheltering in place? What are you feeling right now?

Opening Prayer

God of all mercies, we believe in you. We thank you for your never-ending presence with us. Lead us not into times of trouble, trials, and temptation. Rather lead us into places of patience, perseverance, and peace. When the day of trial comes may we look for you and rest in your abiding grace. May we share in the joy overflowing from the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Read James 1:2-8 slowly and out loud. Read it twice if that is helpful.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Reflection Questions

1. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Why do you think James encourages us to look for joy, and not patience or ways of escape, when we face trials?
3. Where have you found joy and or contentment during the coronavirus pandemic?
4. Describe the difference between knowledge and wisdom.
5. Have you experienced a time when you have sought for wisdom regarding a challenging situation and received it? Share your story.
6. Wrestling with doubt can cause our faith to grow, but in what ways does sustained doubt create instability in our journey of faith?

Final Questions

1. In light of our discussion, what kind of person is God inviting you to become? What's God's invitation for you today?
2. What new things can you start doing this week that would help you become the person God wants you to be in the midst of trials and difficult situations?