

PRAYER REQUESTS

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SERVICE PROJECT

Sunny Hills Growth Group

Week of January 21, 2018

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Do you enjoy taking a test?
2. When have you felt like your life situation was inescapable?

QUICK REVIEW

This week we ... Jason Kline filled the pulpit and looked at James 1:2ff.

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Define each of these words:

"Trouble":

"Joy":

"Endurance":

"Growth":

James 1:1, This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes” — Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!

- James was the brother of Jesus. How would knowing Jesus as a real-life brother color his view of Jesus?
- What does James say about himself in this verse that is key to understanding this passage?

James 1:2, Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

- How does modifying the word “joy” using “great” impact your understanding of this verse?
- If I can “consider it” one way, can I also consider it another way?

James 1:3, For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

- Why would having a faith tested by trouble lead to growth?
- When would having strong endurance come in handy?

James 1:4, So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- When was the last time you “needed nothing”?
- Does it make sense that a person in trouble would need nothing?

APPLICATION

What percentage of the human race experiences trouble?

What percentage of us views trouble as a growth opportunity?

There is a saying, “your attitude determines your altitude.” What do you see in the passage that might support that idea?

There is a saying, “no pain, no gain.” We live in a society that is very pain-averse. What does this passage teach us about the value of pain in our lives?

Check which of these statements makes the most sense to you:

- ☐ My goal is to get through life with as little pain as possible.
- ☐ I know that pain can benefit me to a point, but I still prefer a pain-free experience.
- ☐ Can't we just get past all these pain-lessons and get to the good parts?
- ☐ Pain ... bring it on!