

STUDY 6. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1.
 - a. What has gone wrong for you in recent times?
 - b. Can you see the reasons or did it just happen?
 - c. What has been the impact on you and on others?
2. **Read James 1:2-4.**
 - a. How do you react when you read this verse?
 - b. What do you think the various trials would have been?
3. The passage implies that we might emerge through suffering as tougher Christians or that suffering might benefit us in some way.
 - a. Do you agree with that? Would you always agree with that?
 - b. Can you think of how suffering has changed you? Has it made you more compassionate or perhaps bitter and angry?
 - c. Have you become more mature? (see verse 4).
4. James urges us to “count it as all joy”.
 - a. Is the idea that “suffering equals joy” a call to masochism? Do you know people who seem to enjoy suffering?
 - b. What do you think James means when he asks us to treat suffering as a cause for joy?
5. Imagine you are talking to somebody about the tough time that they are experiencing. How would you respond to these statements?
 - a. “This seems like the end of everything for me. How could I ever recover?”
 - b. “Where is God in all of this?”
 - c. “This has made me so angry!”
 - d. “I have started to wonder if I have done something wrong.” (*Am I being punished?*)
 - e. “I can put up with pain but not with people who are a pain.”
 - f. “Some people seem to get over these things so easily *as either a problem or a challenge.*”
6. **See Verse 5.**

Why do you think this verse follows verse 4? (How are the thoughts connected?)
7. **What has verse 6 to do with the issue of suffering?**
8. Do you find these verses from James a help or hindrance in your understanding about suffering?
9. Is there anybody in the group who needs particular prayer because of something that is going on in their lives right now?