

Encounter these verses today:

(circle) words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...



James 1:2-18 [NIV] ::

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

⁹The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

¹²Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 5:7-11 [NIV] ::

⁷Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.



Digging Deeper | 2010

[Engage the message throughout the week]

Monday: 7.19.2010

Reading: James 1:12

Reflecting on our message from Sunday, let's be committed to God's help and grace through the trials that will come this week and month.

Think about it:

Trials are common to all kinds of people. God allows these moments in our lives to build us stronger. How strong are you?

Pray for: *Families: Kohler & Konuszewski*

Reflections: _____

Tuesday: 7.20.2010

Reading: Deuteronomy 7:12-21

As we read the Bible, we see God's people facing trials and difficult experience over and over. Many times it would appear that their own disobedience caused that struggle. One thing remains true, God will always have their back as long as they worship Him

Think about it:

How big was the task of conquering these foreign lands for Israel? It was huge ... but God says, "Do not be afraid. I got you!"

Pray for: *Families: Korte & Krason*

Reflections: _____

Wednesday: 7.21.2010

Reading: Luke 22:24-30

In the final night of Jesus' life, an argument takes place during dinner about who was the greatest disciple. Why do guys spend so much time comparing themselves? A sign of greatness and pure friendship (Jesus says) is seen in sticking with him in life's trials.

Think about it:

Is there someone in your life that needs your support?

Pray for: *Families: Kulchar & LaCroix*

Reflections: _____

Thursday: 7.22.2010

Reading: James 2:8-12

Let's shift our attention to reading James again and begin to consider Sunday's topic of "Living by Love." A critical issue facing the church of today is spoken of in this passage. Favoritism is cancelled out by perfect love.

Think about it:

How are you able to look at others? Do you find yourself treating others the same or do you unintentionally show more patience to certain people? How can you change (if needed)?

Pray for: *Families: Ledger & Lehnst*

Reflections: _____

Friday: 7.23.2010

Reading: James 5:19-20

James ends his letter with a challenge for everyone to not turn their back on those who are drawn back to the world. Instead, he calls everyone to bring back those who have fallen away.

Think about it:

Gently bringing someone back into grace is a delicate process. Is there anyone in your life who needs to feel God's love through experiencing your love? Pray they come back home!

Pray for: *Families: Lintz & Lopez*

Reflections: _____

Saturday: 7.24.2010

Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Leading into our worship experience this Sunday, we are confronted once again with the simple, yet powerful, words of Christ as he summarizes the law. Love. Others. Everyone. Self. The Church. Those Lost. Those Found.

Think about it:

Who is your neighbor this week? Who needs to experience the love of God by feeling it tangibly from you? Who is the hardest to love in your life? Pray that God will help you love them, too.

Pray for: *Families: Lord & Lyon*

Reflections: _____

