

## Life in the Valley

PASTOR MIKE YODER • JAMES 1:1-8

JAMES  
FAITH / WORKS

### WARM UP

Share a “high” and a “low” from the last two weeks.

### COMING UP

[GRACEPOLARIS.ORG/CALENDAR](https://gracemission.org/calendar)

**Parent Commissioning Class** Sundays, April 18–May 2 • 9:00 a.m. • MC 8 • To RSVP, visit [GracePolaris.org/Parent](https://gracemission.org/parent) or text “Parent” to 614-888-7733.

**How to Share the Gospel with the Nations** Saturdays, May 8, 15, & 22 • 3:00 p.m. • MC 4 • To register for just \$10 by May 6, visit [GracePolaris.org/Nations](https://gracemission.org/nations) or text “Nations” to 614-888-7733.

**Vacation Bible School** June 21–25 • 9:00 a.m. • WC & MC • Learn more, make a donation, and/or register your kids (beginning Tuesday, May 4) at [www.VacationBible.School](http://www.VacationBible.School).

### WITNESS

- Who are the people in your sphere of influence you’re praying will come to know Jesus?
- Share any progress/updates. Pray together for God to use you and your Grace Group to influence these people for Jesus.

### EXPLORE

- 1 James is full of very practical themes about the Christian life. When you think of James, which 2–3 themes most frequently come to mind?
- 2 James is writing to people who were dispersed (“scattered”) from their homeland (1:1). What are characteristics and needs of people who are far from home?
- 3 Life is full of trials. What’s the biggest trial you faced in the past year? What about in your lifetime? Name some of the most common kinds of major trials which people face.
- 4 James, speaking for God, commands us to consider our encounter with trials “pure joy” (1:3). Based on what you heard in the sermon, why is that important? How is that possible?
- 5 How is “pure joy” different from indifference, devastation, or even delight?
- 6 God’s purpose in allowing trials is our maturity; they’re not random or purposeless. What specifically might He be looking to develop in you when He allows trials?
- 7 Why is God not stingy or ill-intentioned when giving wisdom? What does that say about Him and about us (1:5)? Summarize in 2–3 sentences what it means to “believe and not doubt” (1:6).

### PRAY

What’s a present situation, reality, or choice in your life for which you need wisdom? Take a moment and ask God for His wisdom and help.