



09.19.10/James 1:2-8

### Opening Activity

Ask the children if they've ever had a problem that they couldn't fix—a time when a big project happened in school, when they were really sick, or when something bad happened. How did they feel? Did they worry about the situation? Did it seem less scary because parents or adults could help solve it?

In this passage we get a message from James where he describes how we can handle situations when troubles and difficulties come our way. If we put our trust in God to take care of us in these situations, we get stronger and our faith will grow!

### Read James 1:2-8

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### Discussion

In this passage, James is explaining writing to twelve groups of people all over the world and describing some of the things they may encounter as Christians. He explains that all Christians will have trials and temptations, but that through prayer and faith in the Lord, we will become stronger and more secure. We get stronger during trials because God gives us His strength when we trust Jesus. Even when things are difficult, He explains that God has control over everything that happens to us, and that if we trust Him, we will grow in faith and patience.

### Question 1

When we go through trials (difficult things), what's the wrong way to handle them?

When we go through difficult things, the wrong way to handle them is to trust ourselves to fix things and forget to ask God for help. Remember how we said that we get stronger during trials because God gives us His strength when we trust Jesus? If we trust ourselves instead and don't ask God for help, then the only strength we have is our own, and that's never enough!

### Question 2

What does James say we should ask for?

James says we should ask for wisdom. This may seem like a strange thing to ask for, but wisdom helps us understand how God will use a trial in our life to build our faith. We can know God when we trust Jesus instead of ourselves. Wisdom is knowledge of God and what He wants, so if we have wisdom, then that means we know God better!

### Question 3

How is doubting like a "wave of the sea?"

If we trust God in our lives to give us what we need and to guide us, being worried about situations or troubles that we have is doubting that He will give us what we need. When we trust that God will give us what we need, though, our faith grows because we trust Him with our situation. It's almost like the rise of a huge wave. But when we experience difficulties, and we get worried that He isn't going to provide what we need, we lose focus and begin to doubt. It's almost like when the wave crashes! If we allow ourselves to be like waves, we miss out on all of the wonderful faith-building lessons that trials can bring. Waves are very unstable and change all the time, but God NEVER changes. When we trust Jesus, He makes us strong like God!

### Wrap Up



Let's pray for God to help us recognize difficult situations when they come up in our lives. Let's also ask Him to remind us to come to Him for wisdom to learn from the difficult things in our lives. Jesus loves us and will take care of us in any situation if we trust Him instead of trusting ourselves!