

waves [James 1.1-8]

when

trials

consider it pure joy

testing

perseverance

maturity/wholeness

if

don't know what to do

humility

Deuteronomy 8.2-5

ask

Proverbs 2.3-6

wisdom

doubt=divided

goal

Proverbs 8.10-11

wholeness

wholly devoted

wholehearted, humble trust

[big questions]

How am I responding to the trials in my life?

What is being revealed in my heart through the trials?

What do I need to do about it?

Memorize this-

Cry out for insight,
and ask for understanding.
Search for them as you would for silver;
seek them like hidden treasures.
Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord,
and you will gain knowledge of God.
-Proverbs 2.3-5 (NLT)

waves: James 1.1-8
[going deeper]

What thought, idea or observation from this teaching did you find to be the most useful, encouraging, eye-opening or even troubling? Explain.

Describe a time when you worked really hard, disciplining yourself to reach a goal. Was it worth it? Explain.

Read James 1.1-8

Think about some of the struggles in your life, how do you generally tend to respond to them? What impact does that have on the way that you live your life?

James very clearly says “when” not “if” you face trials. How do you feel about that clarification? How would you describe the idea of a trial?

Why should we be joyful in the midst of the trials? What would help us to know joy in the midst of them? What prevents us from being able to be joyful in the midst of the struggles? How would that change the way we experience trials?

Describe the purpose of the trials. How does that happen?

Trials reveal our hearts. Describe how they do this? What are some things that have been revealed about your heart through trials recently?

What choice do we face in the midst of the trials? What seem to be the consequences of those choices? Which choice makes more sense? Explain.

God's goal is that through the trials, we would learn to humbly trust Him more and because of this, that our faith would grow and be strengthened and that we, as people, would become more whole. What are we supposed to do if during the trials, we don't know what to do? How often do you do that? Why?

There is a condition to asking God for help, what is it? Why is that important?

Why are we so divided? How does this reveal a need for humble trust? What keeps us from being able to express humble trust?

Think of some trials/struggles you are experiencing right now—write them down. With each one, describe how you think God wants you to respond. Ask some others if they agree with your assessment. Are there any you feel unsure about? Ask God to show you what to do.