GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Share with the Group

Has there ever been a season in life when you felt particularly overwhelmed or were really struggling with trials in life? Perhaps you are in one right now. If you are comfortable, share it with the group. What helped you through that time? Where did you find hope? How did God meet you in that place?

Read Matthew 5:3-12

Jesus was speaking to some of the very same people James would later write to in his letter; poor people who faced very real trials, troubles, and opression. How do you think these words would have struck them?

What does Jesus' pronouncement of blessings teach us about his heart for, and solidarity with, the suffering?

Is there one of these beatitudes you need to hold close?

Read James 5:7-11

Try to summarize James' teaching in one line.

What does it mean to be long-suffering? Do you have any real world examples from your own life?

James warns against grumbling and fighting. Why? Why are these easy temptations when we face trials? How do we avoid them? What role is there for biblical lament?

Consider the stories of the prophets and Job. Where can we draw encouragement from their examples as we endure?

James directs us toward the hope we have in Jesus' return. Why is this future reality a source of hope here and now?

James, and Pastor Adam, talked about feeding our hearts. What are some of the ways we can actively feed our hearts?

Pray Together - Read Isaiah 40 as a prayer

Ask For Help

If you are struggling with hard things and feeling hopeless please don't go it alone. Contact the church and ask to talk to one of the pastors, or for a pastor to come visit you.

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