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DEVOTED
Devoted to Scripture

LESSON 1—
JAMES 1:1–18

Introduction: What does it mean to be “devoted”?

I. Background

- A. Writer was possibly Jesus’ half-brother, but we don’t know for sure
- B. Book was written to Christian Jews spread out from Jerusalem

II. Trials

Think About It: What trials have you experienced that challenged your faith?

Question: What do you know about Christians the years following Christ? What about Jewish Christians?
-extreme persecutions, fed to lions for sport, crucifixions, etc.
-Jews were also outcasted and persecuted for turning against Judaism

Read James 1:2-12

- A. Christians are to find “joy” in trials...why??? (re-read verses 2-4)
 - 1. to make us mature Christians
 - 2. we can do this because we know the final outcome...salvation (see verse 12)
- B. How does this apply to me?
 - 1. Look back over your trials, when you relied on God, what was the end outcome? When you were struggling and chose not to turn to God, what was the outcome?
 - 2. If you find yourself struggling through trials and understanding God being in control, read verses 5-8 for the answer. (pray)

III. Temptations (Read verses 13-18)

Question: Do you think trials and temptations are different? How?

- A. Temptations are not from God because they lead to sin (read verses 13-15 again)
 - 1. Satan puts temptations out there to distract us; sometimes we knowingly do it ourselves
 - 2. Either way, we are responsible for how we respond to sins that tempt us
- B. God is a good God, so only good things can come from Him (read verses 16-18 again)

Question: What are some good things that come from God? (salvation, etc.)

Question: If trials can come from God, how can they be good? Does this change how you view trials?

Ask Yourself: Are there sins that you have found yourself in that you need to confess to the God who loves you and wants what is best for you?