

James 1:12-18



The Text – James 1:12-18

1. Read James 1:12-18. What words and images stand out from this passage or draw your attention?
2. What do you think the crown of life is that James refers to in verse 12? Do you think the 'crown of life' is something we can receive now or do you think it is purely future-oriented?
3. In this passage, the Greek word for trials and temptation is the same. In what ways are trials and temptations related?
4. What is the source of temptation? What are the potential consequences? Can you think of examples where you have seen difficult times of trial give birth to sin and death in peoples' lives?
5. In verse 17, God is described as the giver of good gifts in times of trial. What gifts do you think James is referring to? Read James 3:15. How might this verse relate?
6. God is described as the Father of the heavenly lights. What do you think this is saying about God?
7. Read verse 18. God's people are described as a firstfruits of all his creatures. What do you think this means? How might this link with the idea of God giving good gifts?
8. Revisit question 2. Has your understanding of the 'crown of life' changed at all from working through this passage?

The Scriptures – James 1:12-18 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. Read Job 36:13-21. What does Elihu warn Job about? What does he say God is doing for him in his suffering? How do we see this idea in James 1:12-18?
10. Read Psalm 40. How do we see the words and themes of this Psalm reflected in James 1:12-18?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to James 1:12-18 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. Are there times when you feel vulnerable to temptation during times of trial and suffering. Reflect quietly on these temptations and consider how you might bring these before the Lord?
12. What new, good things have you seen birthed into the world during times of trial and suffering?
13. How might we participate in God's life-giving work during this time of trial? How might we live as a good gift to our world?