

Show me your faith

Cherry Tree Alliance Church

Small Group Study - James

*Based on the "Show Me Your Faith"
Sermon Series by Pastor Jack Herman*

The Refining of Our Faith (Week 1)

God's plan for Us to Grow Up and Become Spiritually Healthy and Mature

Go around the room and re-read James 1

Suffering is not something any of us enjoy:

1. Pastor Herman began his message talking the man who wrote the book of James. Just as a reminder talk about who James was (Matthew 13), who he became (Acts 15), and the theme of this book he wrote.
2. Talk about trials you've gone through – what difference did it make when you considered them joy and when you didn't?
3. Looking back, can you think of a difficulty in your life that that did help you grow and mature? In what way did you grow and mature? How did the trial help?

If we respond to suffering properly it produces perseverance in our faith that results in maturity and completeness in our lives.

4. Talk about the difference it makes when we seek God's wisdom to go through trials as opposed to when we don't (use illustrations from your own life if you dare!).
5. Pastor Herman talked about the meaning of the word "double-minded" and gave what Jesus said about money – "You cannot serve two masters" – as an example. What is the difference between a half-hearted follower of Christ and a whole-hearted follower?

The refining of our faith involves spiritual battle and a deep commitment to the Word of God.

6. Verses 13-18 talk seem to contrast giving in to temptation vs. receiving God's good and perfect gifts. How does maturity help you overcome the one and benefit from the other?
7. Have you ever gone out somewhere and realized you forgot to look at yourself in the mirror? How does that compared to hearing God's Word, but not doing anything about it.
8. How is God's Word like a mirror? How have you experienced the blessing of *doing* what God's word says and not just hearing it? What did that look like?
9. Take some time to talk about what kind of service project your group would like to do to show our faith to our friends, family, neighbors, and our community.