

Scripture | James 1:1-8, Psalm 16, Nehemiah 8

Ice Breaker |

1. What is the most challenging test you remember taking?
2. What do you do to cheer up when you are down?

Going Deeper |

1. Is there anything that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or do you have any questions?
2. Read James 1:1-8
3. According to James, how should we react when we are facing trials? How realistic is this?
4. How would you define joy? How is it different, or not different from happiness?
5. According to James, what is produced in us when we face trials? How does that relate to joy?
6. Read Psalm 16
7. Based on this, how would you describe David's relationship with God? How does that compare to your relationship with God?
8. In this Psalm, David describes two types of people, what are they? Which grouping do you think you fit into?
9. On Sunday, Rob shared that other gods are not always some form of deity, but can be whatever we put our trust in (money, jobs, education...). Why might we find it easier to trust in things rather than God at times?
10. What is the result of pursuing God, as opposed to lesser gods, according to David?
11. David says God fills us with joy in His presence. On Sunday, Rob said joy is found the assurance that God is who He says He is. Why is it sometimes hard to trust that God is working for our good when we are going through challenging times? How can we find joy in those times and stay close to God?
12. Read Nehemiah 8
13. What does it mean that the joy of the Lord is our strength?
14. Based on this story, why do you think reading scripture is a critical practice?
15. How can we pray for each other?