



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
James 1:1-8 | September 7, 2025  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week we begin our new series in the book of James. The book of James is one of the most practical writings in the New Testament. James, the half-brother of Jesus, writes with a straightforward, no-nonsense style that offers clear instruction for Christian living. He speaks to believers scattered among the nations, calling them to a faith that is not only believed but lived out in daily life.

From the very beginning, James reminds us that following Jesus does not mean avoiding trials, but learning how to walk through them with wisdom and endurance. In **James 1:1–8**, we are called to see trials as opportunities for growth, to ask God for wisdom, and to trust Him as He makes us mature and complete.

## II. Connecting with One Another

What's something in your life that's hard, but you choose to do it anyway—like exercising, practicing an instrument, or tackling a tough project? Why do you keep at it?

## III. Study the Text

*Read James 1:1*

- James introduces himself as “a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.” What does this title tell us about his humility and identity?
- Who are “the twelve tribes scattered among the nations,” and what does that reveal about his audience?

*Read James 1:2-4*

- Why would James tell us to ‘consider it pure joy’ when facing trials? How can joy coexist with difficulty?
- According to James, how does the testing of our faith actually produce perseverance rather than wear us down?
- How might James’ call to become ‘mature and complete’ connect to the Old Testament picture of an unblemished offering set apart for God?



*Read James 1:5-8*

- Why do you think James shifts from talking about trials to talking about wisdom? What's the connection between the two?
- What does James warn about being "double-minded"? What might that look like in practice? What might double-mindedness look like in how we pray, make decisions, or face trials?
- In what ways can trials reveal whether our faith is steady or wavering?

*Read Luke 11:5-8*

- In this parable, how does Jesus' teaching on persistence in prayer encourage us to keep asking God for wisdom?
- How is God's generosity and willingness to answer different from how people in the story—and in our own lives—might respond?

*Reflect and Respond*

- When was the last time you asked God for wisdom in the middle of a trial? What happened?
- Where do you see the temptation to be "double-minded" in your faith?
- In what ways is God inviting you to grow toward maturity and completeness?

#### IV. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Thank God that He gives wisdom generously and without reproach.
- Pray for strength and perseverance in trials.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your faith so you may stand firm and not waver.
- Pray for one another, specifically for the trials represented in your group.

#### V. Digging Deeper

*For additional reflection:*

- **Romans 5:3–5** – How does suffering produce perseverance, character, and hope?
- **1 Peter 1:6–7** – How are trials compared to the refining of gold?
- **Proverbs 2:6** – What does this teach us about the source of wisdom?
- **Hebrews 12:1–3** – How does fixing our eyes on Jesus help us endure trials?

