

## **Baycities Lomita Winter/Spring 2019 Growth Groups**

### **New Series: “WWJD- What Would James Do”- Part 1**

**Theme: “Overcomers- Building The Capacity For Tenacity” Week of Mar. 3, 2019**

#### **Follow-Up Bible Study and Discussion Questions**

**Message Summary:** This week we’re opening the book of James... the wisdom book of the New Testament. James was the brother of Jesus and James didn’t embrace his brother as Lord until after the resurrection. But James made up for lost time. He believed hard and became the leader of the Jerusalem Church. James writes this book to suffering Jewish Christians to encourage them to examine their faith, to make sure it is real faith! Real faith does things, endures things, stands firm. He does that throughout the book of James! What James says to us in James 1:1-4, is that faith is tested through the hard times, trials and tribulations and testing that each of us will face. If your faith is real, it will produce an inner joy as you endure through the testing or trial or hard time and you will verify that your faith is real faith! If hard times make you shrink back and curse God and run, then your faith is weak or non-existent! That is why it is joyful to face trials since the real believer knows that his or her capacity for tenacity, patience, will grow through this time meaning much more can be taken on in the future. Let’s face trials with a renewed knowledge that God is up to something and it will ultimately strengthen our faith for the long haul.

1. What do you remember from the message on Sunday that touched you deeply or impacted you the most?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. As you think about the trials, hard times and difficulties you have faced in the last year or two, how did they affect your view of God’s love for you? What did you attribute the trial or difficulty to initially? What helped you the most to get through the tough time you faced?

3. James tells us in James 1:1-4, that the testing of our faith produces endurance, and endurance when it has had its effect will produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness or maturity in the faith. Discuss the importance of patience and endurance in living your life as a Jesus follower. What things do you do as a Christians that having more patience and endurance would positively affect?
  
4. James 1:1-4 says we should consider it all joy (internally confident, encouraged, peace-filled) when we experience trials and temptations (hard times, trials, testing, difficulties, etc.) because the testing of our faith produces some very important things. How does the testing of our faith impact the following things:
  - a. Our patience and endurance as believers-
  
  - b. Our hope of heaven-
  
  - c. Our confidence & trust in Jesus-
  
  - d. Our ability to help others in their trials-
  
  - e. Our prayer and Bible study focus-
  
  - f. The building of our character through the trials we face-