

**Small Group Questions**  
**Collide: Joy meets Trial**  
**10/09/11**

**Getting Started...**

How would you define joy? How would you distinguish it from happiness?

What is something intentional you've done to bring joy to someone else?

**Going Deeper...**

*Joy meets Trials:*

It is interesting that, for the most part, we think of joy as an emotion, something we feel. Yet James says to "consider it pure joy" as if to say joy is more of a mindset than a feeling. Galatians 5:22 & 23 describe it as a fruit of the spirit. Look up Acts 5:40-41, 2 Corinthians 7:4-5, 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 1:6, Hebrews 10:34, and Hebrews 12:1-2; if you had to write a Biblical definition of joy, how would you write it? How might we need to think of joy differently?

What is the foundation of your joy?

What characteristics of God serve to strengthen your foundation the most?

What scriptural truths will you lean on in the midst of a trial?

Consider what might be the most difficult trial you would ever have to endure. How do you envision yourself considering it pure joy?

Trials come in all sizes; how do you handle the small trials God brings each day with joy?

*Faith, Wisdom and Doubtful Prayer:*

James jumps from joy and maturity in trials to asking God for wisdom in faith.

What do you see as the connection between the topics?

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Pastor Ben Wangler

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Consider wisdom, how would you define it?

*When I think properly I can have joy in the journey, even when the journey isn't joyous*

Read James 3:13. Here James gives us the characteristics of wisdom, do you need to rewrite or add to your definition?

*Thoughts that give me Joy...*

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is there a big decision facing you? How might you apply James 3:13 to it?

Wisdom is never \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Hearing and Doing....**

Has this study changed, expanded your understanding, or challenged you? Has it revealed a lie you believe, or sins you must repent of? Has it revealed a promise to take comfort in, or to take heart in? Write whatever it might be below and rephrase it into prayer ver your life.

My physical wealth \_\_\_\_\_ my spiritual wealth.

This \_\_\_\_\_ is not my \_\_\_\_\_.