



# Family Worship Guide: Joy in the Trial

## Read Together

*<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. <sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:1-4 ESV)*

**Main Idea:** We can have joy in the trials of life because God is using them to strengthen our faith and make us look more like Jesus.

**Preschool Takeaway:** Sometimes its very hard to do things that we don't like to do and it makes us sad but God tells us that if we trust and love him, He will always be there to help us do what's hard and there is a reason for it. Because of that we can be happy when things are hard. What is something hard that you have had to do? Who will always be there to help us do things that are hard?

**Kids Takeaway:** It's not very easy to feel happy when things seem to be going yucky. Thank goodness joy isn't a feeling, but it's a fruit of the Spirit! That means we can have joy on the inside even when we don't feel happy. When we are feeling not very happy, the best thing we can do is talk about it with someone we trust. So today, talk to someone about how you are feeling and what God is saying to your heart.

How is the COVID 19 quarantine making you feel? What is something you miss? What is something that you like about it? What has God shown you during this time?

**Students Takeaway:** Can you think of any hard times that you've had in your life? What did you learn in those times? How has God strengthened us in the hard times that we've come through before? Whether we see His hand at work or not, God uses seasons of suffering to make us more like Christ.

**Couples:** Reflect with one another upon any trials you are undergoing. Discuss how it is stretching your faith, revealing sin in your life, and molding you into the image of Christ.

## Pray Together

Ask God to strengthen your faith in the trial.

Take this time to encourage each person to identify someone else they know is having a hard time. Then pray for those people.

## Sing Together

*Turn you eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in His wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace*

## Serve Together

How can your family practically serve someone going through a difficult time this week? Discuss as a group.

## Bible Stories to Read this Week

### Esther's Big Decision

*A very bad man wanted to do very bad things to God's people. Esther was in a position to help, but it could cost her her life.*

(Esther 4)

### Daniel's Three Friends

*The king made a bad law. To follow the king's command would dishonor God, but to honor God would result in death.*

*What would Daniel's friends do?*

(Daniel 3)



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