

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 1:1, 12-18

Starting Point

- What New Year resolution have you kept going, if any?
- How would you define patience?
- What verse or phrase stands out in this Bible passage?

Scene Setting

- Who was James? See Matt 13:55-56, Mark 6:3.
- Did he believe in Jesus? See Mark 3:31-35, John 7:1-5.
- Where was he after Jesus' ascension? See Acts 1:14.
- Did Jesus appear to James after the Resurrection? 1 Cor 15:7
- What did James go on to lead? See Acts 15:6, 12-13.
- How did Apostle Paul describe James? See Galatians 2:9.

Search Out

- To whom did James write (v.1)?
- Identify the 4-stage *downward* process of sin (v.14-15):
 - ➊ Desire (v.14a), ➋ Deception (v.14b),
 - ➌ Disobedience (v.15a), ➍ Death (15b).
- Identify the 4 facts about the goodness of God (v.17):
 - ➊ Good Gifts (v.17a), ➋ Good Delivery (v.17b),
 - ➌ Good Continually (v.17c), ➍ Good Changelessly (v.17d).
- Through what did Jesus bring us new-birth (v.18)?

Significant Points

- What is the difference between testing on the outside and temptation on the inside?
- Why do immature Christians easily fall into temptations? What should we do when faced with temptations?
- What excuses might Christians give for yielding to sin? Why is each excuse invalid?
- Quote: "*God's gifts are always better than Satan's bargains.*" Do you agree? Why/why not?
- You could end by reading together James 1:12

James 1:1, 12-18 (NIVUK)

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:
Greetings.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.