

## MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 1 – GOD'S PROCESS OF MATURITY

<sup>1</sup>James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup>But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

<sup>9</sup>Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. <sup>10</sup>But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. <sup>11</sup>For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

<sup>12</sup>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.

- James 1:1-12

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EVIDENCES OF I	MATURITY:				
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- Why don't we appreciate trials in our lives? 1.
- 2. How can trials lead us to a more mature faith?
- 3. How would you approach trials if you focused more on the opportunity for growing your faith than the physical, emotional, or spiritual difficulties?
- Many people can look back and be "glad" that they went through a tough time. 4. Have you ever experienced joy in the midst of a trial? If so, where did the joy come from?
- How can maturity change your perspective on trials? 5.
- How do trials and tests produce perseverance? 6.
- What can we do if we lack wisdom? How will God respond? 7.
- Which of the evidences of maturity have you seen in your life? 8.
- How can withstanding the trials of life build confidence and faith in your Heavenly 9. Father?
- 10. What trials and testing of your faith are you currently going through? How can knowing God is using it to bring you to maturity help you endure?