

TO GO

1. Have you ever been fooled by someone or something that was not who or what they claimed to be? What were the circumstances? How did you discover the ruse?
2. Read James 1:1–4. Why does James associate how we respond to trials with the testing of our faith? What is it about trials that are uniquely suited to reveal the authenticity of our commitment to Jesus?
3. What trials are you facing today? In what ways is it difficult to count them all joy?
4. How, specifically, does one count it all joy when facing trials? What must we believe about their purpose? Why does persevering through trials tend to produce Christ-like maturity?
5. Read James 1:5. Why does James encourage prayer for wisdom in the context of facing trials?
6. Read James 1:6–8. What parameters does James place on asking God for wisdom? What does it mean to ask in faith, without doubting? What is a double-minded man? What is the opposite of a double-minded man?
7. Read James 1:9–11. What trials exist in places of lowliness and wealth? Why does James include both in this conversation? What perspective must one have to remain sober about their socio-economic position? How is this integral to counting trials as joy?
8. Consider how you've responded to trials in the past. Based on today's text, is there anything you would change, or would hope to experience differently the next time? Ask God for the kind of wisdom and sobriety necessary to face your trials today and in the future. And make plans to count them all joy when you do!