


# WELCOMING TRIALS AS FRIENDS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 1:2-4

1 What is an example in your life where you can say, with sincerity, that a trial was necessary to bring you where you are today?

2 Does our world today expect and embrace suffering? What about Christians? Do they embrace trials as something God allows and even ordains for the believer?


 How does our culture's view of suffering affect how we respond to it?

3 Are we supposed to deny our feelings when we “count it all joy” in the midst of trials (James 1:2)? Is it sin to feel sorrow and grief in a trial? If not, how do these feelings fit in with God's call for joy? Look at the questions below to help guide you in your thoughts about joy.


 How is joy distinct from happiness (see 2Cor. 6:10; 7:4-6) Define “joy” in your own words.

4 To count suffering as joy, we must realize what God is doing in suffering and trust Him.

 What is God accomplishing through trials? See Psalm 119:67, 71, Heb. 12:11, Rom. 5:3-5, 1 Pet. 5:10

 What have you seen God personally do in your own life through a trial or difficulty? Spend time thanking God for the trials and what he taught you or how changed in you.

5 The word translated “steadfastness” in verse 3 literally means “to remain under,” like a person holding up a heavy weight for a long period of time. Read Prov 24:16. What is the difference between the “righteous man” and the “wicked” when they fall? Personalize it by substituting your name for “righteous man.”

 How can this passage encourage you? How can you use it to encourage others?

