ENDURE TO THE END DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 1:12

1	Think about the trials you are currently facing and how they affect your faith. What are the external trials and pressures that you are currently facing? How are they affecting your faith?
	How did intense difficulty and trial affect Peter in (Luke 22:54-62)? How did it impact the Psalmist Asaph in (Psalm 73:2)?
	Has there ever been a time in your life where trials really caused you to struggle with your faith, perhaps your spiritual feet almost slipped out from under you. Perhaps you could share a time like that with your group and what helped you through that time.
2	How people handle trials can say something about the genuineness of their salvation. Do you have assurance that you are truly born again (John 3:3)? What evidence do you see in your own life to give you that assurance?
	Do you think that God wants true believers to go on throughout life worrying about whether they are really born again, or to have firm assurance that they are his people? (See 1 John 5:13).
	Many times children who grow up in Christian homes go through a period of doubting their salvation. If this is something you have experienced, please share that, and share how you came through those doubts.
3	If you have doubts about whether you are truly born again, what is it in your life that is giving reason for those doubts?
	What would Scripture encourage you to do to resolve those doubts? (See 2 Pet. 1:5-11; Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:37).
	Do you think that Jesus now knows about your doubts and understands them? What do you think he would like you to do now to gain greater assurance of salvation?

4	Have you known people whose fruit in life is always destructive, divisive, or harmful to the ministry of the church or the faith of others? Is it possible that people would profess agreement with every true Christian doctrine and still not be born again?		
	Can you think of a case study, perhaps a disciple of Jesus who gave some external signs that made him even though he wasn't? See (John 6:64, 70).	look and sound like a genuine believer	
		nd doctrine?	
5	The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God's power and will persevere as Christia until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.		
	How is God the Father involved in keeping true Christians secure? See (1Pet. 1:5).		
	How is God the Son involved in keeping true Christians secure? See (John 10:27-29).	PRAYER REQUESTS	
	How is God the Holy Spirit involved in keeping true Christians secure? See (Eph. 1:13-14).		
6	What is this crown (stephanos in Greek) of life in 1:12 (lit: "living crown")? Will all believers receive it? To answer this question, look up the following verses that also use this Greek word (1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2:10).		
7	In the midst of your deepest trials and darkest times in life are you continuing to trust in Christ? Are you remaining steadfast? Do you have a present faith that's active and real today – not something from 10 or 20 years ago? Antique faith isn't what's needed in contemporary trials. What would it look like to lean afresh into the loving arms of the Lord? What would steadfastness look like in your trial?		