



When Life Happens (Unexpected Circumstances)

Wrinkle-free days usually don't create great faith, because we don't know what we actually believe until what we claim to believe is tested. Those unexpected things life throws our way can end up being pivotal circumstances in our faith journeys.

Discussion Questions

Read James 1:2–4, as you listen, make a mental note of what stands out to you?

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1. What stood out to you?
2. James says that trials test our faith or our confidence in God. How has your personal faith been tested?
3. If God uses pivotal circumstances to build your faith, what should your response be the next time life takes you by surprise? What is your go-to response? Panic? Anger? Doubt? Call a friend?

C.S. Lewis writes: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

4. Anyone willing to share about a time you went through a struggle or difficult season where you maintained, or strengthened your faith through the season of struggle? How did you do it? (what was helpful)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

—John 16:33