

**Dig Deeper @Home – “I Pledge Allegiance ...”
Complement to lesson on 04/11/21 – “To God Alone”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What do you like most about Spring? What do you like least?
2. Share one high and one low from the previous week.

MEMORIZE – James 3: 17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

READ James 1: 1-8

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn't you like?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated, contrasted, or compared?
3. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
4. What is the connection/contrast/comparison between James calling himself a servant (slave) of God and Jesus with encouraging believers to not be double-minded (v8)?
5. Look at verses 2-4 again.
 - a. Is joy your typical response to trials?
 - b. Why does James say it should be a joy?
 - c. What do trials uniquely do for us?
 - d. How might focusing on the end help us to move through trials with joy?
 - e. If our response isn't joy, might that be exposing a higher allegiance to something else other than Christ?
 - f. Look at verse 5. How does asking for wisdom fit with joyfully enduring trials?

Experiential activity – Putting trials on trial

James describes trials as opportunities to grow in holiness ... as the way in which we become perfect and complete. But we don't always see trials as positive things in which we rejoice. So, it's time to put our trials on trial. Open up with somebody about a trial you are going through currently. Are you counting it all joy? Is it producing steadfastness? Are you growing in holiness? If not, what are you experiencing? Pray together for wisdom from God who gives generously to all. Then check back in after a couple days and ask what differences have been made since receiving the wisdom from our heavenly Father. Put your trials on trial and find the joy and holiness God can bring through them.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mECQOt2z7mw>

In Christ Alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn9-UNer6MQ>

When Peace like a River - (Mennonite Hymnal #576)

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

As you go through this week, may the Holy Spirit enable you to give you full and ultimate allegiance to Christ and His Kingdom. May the Spirit fill you with His thoughts and cause you to walk in His ways, for His glory, the advancement of His gospel and the good of those around you. Amen