



## Week One – Olympic Trails: Olympic Trials

### CONNECT

- What is the hardest test you remember taking?
- What do you do to cheer up when you are down?
- In hard times whom do you lean on?

### WORD

#### **James 1:1-8, 12-15**

*A servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

*12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death*

### THOUGHT

The book of James opens up with a unique response when it comes to facing trials in our personal lives. It says that we are to count it all joy when encountering difficult situations. Why? Because God is doing something inside of us!

**Olympic Story:** When Kristi Yamaguchi fell to the ice in the 1992 Winter Olympics, the crowd groaned. Everyone thought her chance for a gold-medal had been destroyed by the fall. But Kristi quickly got to her feet, flashed a smile and resumed her program. She received high scores from the judges, despite the mistake and she won the gold medal. It happened because though she fell, she didn't stay down, she got back on her feet.

## DISCUSSION

1. According to James what should be a Christian's attitude when facing trials (v 2-4)? How realistic is this?

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2. How does a person receive wisdom (v 5)? When asking God for guidance what must we guard ourselves against? (v 6)?

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3. What is the promise for those who persevere under trial (v 12)?

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4. Is there a difference between God "testing "our faith (v 3) and tempting us (v 13)? Please explain.

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5. How often is your attitude like James during trials? How about with any trials you're facing now? How can your connect group help you in your attitude?

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6. When have you prayed for and receive God's wisdom? What do you do when you pray but still have doubts?

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Find someone to share with, the current trials you are enduring, ask him or her to pray with you about the trials you are facing and hold you accountable to the solution God has for you.
- Ask the same friend, or another about their trials, pray with him or her and seek out God's plan for their trials.

## PRAYER

- Pray God gives you strength for the trials you are currently facing
- Ask God to reveal to you what He is showing you during these trials