

“A Trouble-Shooting Guide”

James 1:5-12

Sermon Discussion Questions

Note: *To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.*

1. What was the last big dilemma you faced or a decision you had to make?
 - a. What things did you do before making that decision? How did it work out?
 - b. Would you generally consider yourself a **decisive** (quickly, little second-guessing) or **indecisive** (like Dr. Seuss’s “Zoad in the Road”)?

2. Someone read **James 1:5-8** and ask others to read the scriptures below.
 - a. In addition to praying for it, which of the listed channels of wisdom do you most often use or neglect?
 - 1) **God’s Word** (pertinent passages) **Psalm 119:97-100**
 - 2) **God’s People** (wise counselors) **Proverbs 15:22**
 - 3) **God’s Spirit** (inner promptings) **Acts 13:1-3**
 - 4) **God’s Power** (ideas or options) **Proverbs 3:5-6**
 - 5) **God’s Purpose** (bigger picture) **Romans 8:28**
 - b. Someone suggests a major decision or dilemma (i.e. family, relationships, money, job, church, etc).
 - * Have the group run it through the wisdom channels listed above.

3. Someone read **James 1:9-11**.
 - a. Do you see much economic diversity (haves & have nots) at Bethel?
 - * Has this played any role in tensions over the past few years?
 - b. From this passage & others, how would you counsel someone who is intimidated or resentful of those who have more than they do i.e. **Philippians 4:12-13**.
 - * How would you counsel someone who seems to avoid patronize those who have less than they do i.e. **Matthew 19:23-26**.

4. Someone read **James 1:12**.
 - a. Discuss the differences between Jesus’ cross (**Hebrews 12:2**) and our crosses in life (**Matthew 16:24-25**).
 - b. What are some differences between what Simon of Cyrene did (**Luke 23:26**) and what we are challenged to do (**Matthew 10:37-39**)?
 - c. Do you have any thoughts about what the “crown of life” will be for those who persevere under trial?