

# Faith that Works when Life Doesn't

## Posture not Particulars (James 1: 1-5)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

### **Trials and Temptations**

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. 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.

- James writes to a church which has scattered and is trying to work out how to hold on to what they believe in the middle of very unfamiliar circumstances.
- He points out two things about troubles and trials:

Troubles are about \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_

Troubles come in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- What tends to be your default position when unexpected and/or difficult stuff happens?
- How would you finish this (honestly!!):

“When adverse experiences happen, consider it \_\_\_\_\_”

Can you think of times in your life where it felt like you were in a huge pit but now, looking back, you realise you have a deep well to draw on?

What do you think about sadness, grief, loneliness and other emotions which we might think of as negative, being places where we can encounter God in a new way?