



# SHATTERPROOF

*overcoming life's trials*

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | We Face Trials...But We Find Joy

### WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

### ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What makes you laugh? What puts a smile on your face? Share the top five things that bring you joy.
- ◆ What are some things that you know about shatterproof or bulletproof glass? If no one in your group is familiar with its qualities, take some time to read something about it online.

### DISCUSSION

1. Read [James 1:1](#); [Acts 8:1](#). The 12 tribes were the Jewish brothers and sisters who had come to faith in Christ. These new believers faced opposition and persecution. They were scattered like broken glass. What individuals or people groups are you aware of today that have been separated from family, have had to run for their lives and have experienced great loss?
2. Read [James 1:2-4](#). How would you define “pure joy?” How is an attitude of joy different from a feeling or emotional response of happiness? What is James saying are the results of persevering through trials? What perspective makes having joy in difficult circumstances possible?
3. Why do you think James chooses to talk about things that will strengthen their faith, rather than encouraging these scattered believers in other ways?
4. What are some things that people do that require perseverance with a specific end result in mind? Example: Working out to stay in shape.
5. What end result does James 1:4 say will take place when we persevere under trials? How might that end result help you persevere when you are in the midst of difficulties?
6. What are some trials you have faced? How did experiencing those trials affect your faith? What has this testing taught you about perseverance?
7. Read [James 1:14-15](#). What other choice do we have to respond to life's temptations and trials? How does that choice turn out?
8. Read [James 1:12](#). The word testing refers to a silversmith testing silver. A silversmith pours silver into a pot that's heated by fire. When the fire reaches a certain temperature all the impurities rise to the top, and the silversmith scrapes them off. How would this analogy play out in a tough life situation resulting in “pure joy?” How might this joy be different than the joy experienced by the five things you listed at the beginning?
9. In your life, how have you seen the process of maturity through enduring trials, testing your faith and experiencing joy? Why do you think this process is necessary (or is it merely inevitable)?
10. If a silversmith looks into purified silver, whose reflection would he see? How might the persevering process of trials be a catalyst for us to look like Jesus? What past hardships have refined your character to look like Jesus?
11. When you walk up a mountain, it would be easy to go with gravity and lean back, but you would fall. To get to the top of the mountain, we have to lean forward. Name a current trial you're facing. What could you do to lean into it and persevere? Talk about what good end result God might have in mind.

### PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that God would help you persevere in a current struggle, to pass the test, to find joy, to experience shatterproof faith.