



ICE BREAKERS:

- When is the last time you watched a boxing match?
- What is the objective of boxing?
- What is the hardest test you remember facing in life?

We begin a new journey together studying a book in which James, the brother of Jesus, is challenging all Christians to “grow up” and to “mature” in their faith!

READ & EXAMINE

Read James 1:1-4

- James is addressing the twelve tribes. These were Jewish Christians who undoubtedly faced much in life just like you and me.
- We would assume that they felt beat up by life when faced with trials and temptations. The question is “How did they respond to them and how do we?”

Read James 1:2-3

ROUND 1 – Trials test Faith

- Why does God allow trials?
- James uses the word “whenever” not “if” when we face trials. What does that say to you?

Read John 16:33

- He says, “In this world you will have troubles.”
- What should be a Christian’s attitude when facing trials?
- How do we get to this place in our faith? He has overcome the world!

ROUND 2 – Faith develops Perseverance

Read James 1:3

- Perseverance = “ability to handle the pressures of life”
- Maybe a better question is which ones didn’t persevere through something?
- What are the latest things that you had to persevere through?

ROUND 3 – Perseverance develops Maturity

Read James 1:4

- Why is perseverance important? What reward comes with persevering in the faith?
- Maturity = “handling pressures of life in a Christ-like way”
- In the “ring of life” we will face much! Face it with Jesus!

APPLICATION

- What pressures are you under right now?
- How can we handle them in a “Christ-like way”?
- How can we pray for each other?

Take time to think about the trials in your past and how have they made you more mature in the faith.