

# PREACHING CURRICULUM



**SERMON TITLE:** Unexpected Discovery

**SCRIPTURE:** James 1:2-8, 12

*'...while your trials may be unique to you, trials are not unique to you...'*

*'...while suffering is temporary, the results of suffering are eternal...'*

## 1 REVIEW THE SERMON

How can suffering possibly be a source of joy? How then do Christians find "joy" in suffering and trials?

How can pain have a purpose?

What does a proper perspective in our faith really look like with regard to various kinds of trials?

How does the truth of Genesis 50:20 hold true just as much for us in this generation as it did for Joseph thousands of years ago? What should this remind us of with God's track record and the placement of our trust in Him to meet the needs of His people?

## 2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

What is God's purpose for the pain and suffering or difficulty in your life right now? What is He teaching you, or how is He stretching and preparing you?

How can your endurance and perspective in the midst of trials (that there is value in them), be a blessing to others around you?

Are we expected to be emotionally and expressively happy and joyful and smiling always in the midst of difficulty? What then is to be our reaction in the moments of trial?

As we compare Romans 12:9, what might God be teaching you to loosen your grip on, and what are you to be holding even tighter to, right now?

## 3 APPLY THE TRUTH

How does suffering produce steadfastness, or endurance **vs. 2-3**?

How do trials refine and purify us, which is making us more like Christ **vs. 4**?

How do our suffering and trials cause us to lean on Christ **vs. 5-8**?

How does the big picture perspective help us with our limited perspective of trials here and now **vs. 12**?

## 4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

How can we better be encouraged (and encourage each other) in our eternal hope, and live out our faith in light of that as witness in the here and now—regardless of what difficulty we may face?