



Sermon Discussion Guide
Week of 04/29/2018

➤ ***Icebreaker***

What are you looking forward to this summer?

➤ ***Announcements***

Please continue to pray for our facility expansion project.

➤ ***Prayer Time***

➤ ***Discussion Questions***

Describe a process you've gone through to develop in your career. Are you better at your job now than 5 or 10 years ago? What lessons have you learned that helped you develop... regarding your attitude... how you deal with people... how you stay on track... how you grow your skills?

God has a process for developing us spiritually. What is Jesus' goal for our lives- see Romans 8:28-29; Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:13-16?

Why is this goal so difficult to attain? What gets in the way? How does God utilize difficult circumstances and challenging people in our own growth process? Are difficult people an obstacle to God's plan and our happiness or a tool to accomplish His plan and lead us to happiness?

Read James 1:2-3. What enables us to have joy when we face life's trials and trolls? How does knowing God has a process in mind for our good keep us from responding to trolls in carnal, angry, bitter and unforgiving ways?

What do the following verses say about the best possible attitude as we deal with trolls- James 1:19-22; 3:13-14; 4:1-3; 4:10. How does James- as discussed Sunday- demonstrate healthy attitudes in the introduction of this letter- James 1:1?

Why is it so difficult to learn from our troll? What do we often feel instead of "pure joy" when we face trolling? How does flawed thinking and failing to see God's process often cause us to miss growth opportunities and the joy which always follow?

Why is our response to pressure- to being misunderstood, attacked, disrespected or insulted- to getting squeezed- the best indicator as to our level of spiritual maturity? Why is this way more revealing than our Bible knowledge or level of religious activity? Seen James 1:26; 3:9-12.

Discuss the statement- "*Implicit in every troll encounter is a choice for good or evil.*" How does this change our perspective so we see ourselves not as helpless pawns but holding the power? Who is the strong one when we choose the good- cf- Proverbs 16:32?

> ***Conversational Prayer: Dear God help me...***