

# LIFE IS HARD

# Part 2

**Key Scriptures: James 1:5-8; Ephesians 2:4-9; Genesis 41:8, 15-16**

**1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.**

- What is the best plot twist you've read/seen/lived? (book, TV show, movie, life, etc.) Describe it.
- What can be learned from this plot twist? What message does it send?
- What is the difference between fair-weather friends and true friends in your life?

**2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.**

- James was writing to people who *KNEW* life was hard. You can count on God when life is hard. What has God promised to do when life gets hard? (James 1:5-8)
- Is it fair to judge a friend for not keeping a promise they never made? Have you ever done that with God? Explain.
- When does God promise to give you wisdom? How do you handle the difference between *YOUR* expected timeline and God's perfect timeline?
- Joseph is an example of relying on God's perfect timing. What did God use him for that changed the course of everyone? Why wait until then?

**3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.**

- What kind of wisdom does God give when life gets hard? Give an example from your life.
- "When people don't have the wisdom to deal with reality, they spend their life trying to escape reality." How do you handle situations that you have no idea how to handle it?
- God is rich in mercy! How has God given generously to you? (God Himself; God's Word; and God's People)
- In James 1:8, what does James mean by "double-minded" and "unstable"? What causes someone to be these things?

**4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.**

- a. What situation in your life do you need the wisdom to handle? What situations are the other group members need the wisdom to handle?
- b. Make a list (name and need) of everyone's need for God's wisdom and pray for them this week.

**5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.**

- a. Commit to recognizing the sources of Wisdom that God has for us.
  - i. God Himself – run to the source of all wisdom when times get hard.
  - ii. God's Word – read God's wisdom for you in the Bible.
  - iii. God's People – Ask for a moment to share with a mature Christian what your need is and receive wisdom and perspective from them.