



## Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

*"When your world explodes" (James 1)*

### **Points from Sunday's Message**

1. Trials will build us up, but only if we participate in the process.
2. Our flesh has a self destructive desire to indulge in sin, leading to death.
3. God blesses those people who do what He teaches in His Word.
4. The way I grow in my faith is to endure trials with joy. When I endure I will be rewarded.

### **Key Verse:**

*Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.*

— James 1:2-4

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Pastor Jason used Mount St. Helens as a metaphor for trials in our lives. What trial are you currently facing, and where do you see potential for growth or "beauty from ashes" in that situation?
2. James instructs us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." Which of these three areas presents the greatest challenge for you, and what specific step could you take this week to grow in that area?
3. The message emphasized that "we are called to endure, not necessarily defeat" our trials. How does this perspective change how you might approach a current challenge in your life?

4. The message outlined six steps for growing through trials, including "clean out the garbage" (moral filth) and "do what God has called you to do." Choose one of these steps and create an action plan for implementing it in your daily life this week.

**The six things (derived from James 1:19-22):** Listen and don't interrupt (be quick to listen), Be slow to speak, Be slow to get angry (restrain your temper, respond rather than react), Clean out the garbage (rid yourself of all moral filth), Receive the word humbly (apply scripture to yourself first), Do what God has called you to do (be doers of the word, not hearers only)

5. James 1:27 defines "pure and undefiled religion" as looking after orphans and widows and keeping oneself unstained from the world. In what specific ways could our group serve those who cannot care for themselves while maintaining our witness in the world?

*Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.*