

## WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

### LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 6 September 2009

Walk the walk – James 1.1-18

Read the passage as a whole to get started. Don't feel compelled to tackle every question!

1. To get you thinking:

The word used for 'trials' has the sense of testing. In your group spend a few minutes making a list on a large sheet of paper of the trials or tests you face as a Christian. Try to draw them together under different headings e.g. temptation, difficult personal circumstances.

2. Read v.2-8. James says that testing produces perseverance. Can you share any examples of times when you can look back and say that you were being tested? How did God work in you in those times?
3. What about when you have been tested and things did not go well? What can we learn from those times? What would you do differently if you faced a similar test? How can we help each other?
4. Read v.9-11. James refers to two kinds of riches – worldly wealth and spiritual wealth – and about humility. It reminds us that monetary wealth and poverty do not last. In what ways should this truth shape our thinking, our attitudes and our behaviour?

5. Read v.12. This verse is a powerful reminder that no matter what our present circumstances we have a wonderful future. Why not turn this verse into a time of thanksgiving either now or at the end of the study.
6. Read v.13-18. This section helps us to have a right view of God. V.17 contains one of my favourite descriptions of God as the 'Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows'. It reminds us of God's magnificence as Creator and his absolute consistency. You might like to finish the study out of doors (even if it is raining), sharing together the ways in which understanding God's character and greatness help us to live as Christians, and thanking him for our place in his creation and in his plan.