

# Bible Experience

## James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. 3 For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything. NLT

List of Things that you will need:

- 1) Your Favorite Worship CD
- 2) Box of Crayons (As many colors as possible)
- 3) Your Journal
- 4) Plain White Paper

### 1) Read it to yourself

Think about the words. What is this passage saying to you? Is there anything that jumps out at you? Read the footnotes in your Bible (if you have any). Write down your thoughts in your journal.

### 2) Read it out loud

Read it with gusto! Be dramatic and have fun with it. Do this several times. If you're really brave, try saying it without looking at your Bible.

### 3) Write it down

Write out the verses 3 times. Writing helps to engage your brain in a way that's different from just reading. The more ways you experience the Bible, the better you absorb it. It actually becomes a part of you. After you finish writing it down, try to say it by memory.

### 4) Meditate with music

Switch on your favorite worship CD and meditate on the goodness of God. Here are some things to consider from the passage.

- 1) God allows us to go through hard times to make us stronger
- 2) A warrior without any battles is just a wimp.
- 3) God comforts us as we go through the hard times.
- 4) We can more easily empathize and help people who are going through similar situations.

5) In the words of Wayne Watson in his song “A Beautiful Place”

“Sometimes a rough and a rocky road, is gonna take you to a beautiful place.”

### **5) Now it's time for the crayons!**

Think about some of the hard times that you have gone through in life.

Think about how you felt at that time. Experience the emotions. How did God bring comfort to you?

Now draw a picture of it. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece, just draw it. Be sure to include God comforting you in the picture. Make sure to leave space for a second picture.

Next think about how that experience has made you stronger. Has it developed character in your life? Has it helped you comfort someone else? Has it helped you to trust God more?

Draw a picture of that new strength in your life. Make sure to include other people you have comforted.

After you finish the second picture draw a line with an arrow on each end to connect the two pictures.

Take a really good look at the two pictures. As the music is playing in the background, praise God now for helping to make you stronger.

### **6) Back to the Journal**

Now write down any thoughts that come to you. Take some time to meditate on things that you would like to change in your life. Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help you make those changes.