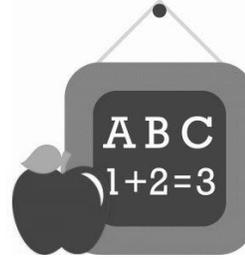


# Back to Basics

*Pursuing Life-Change in  
James*

Pastor Toby Locke • 10/6/2024



## Stop and Think

James 1:2, Genesis 45:4-8

### □ A Painful Reality:

- ➔ \_\_\_\_\_ have been set for us. (James 1:2)
- ➔ “Trials” are \_\_\_\_\_ traps designed to make you FALL. (Matthew 4:1, John 8:3-6, Matthew 6:13, James 1:13)

### □ Our Natural Reaction:

- ➔ We make quick, unconscious \_\_\_\_\_.
- ➔ We rush to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves from perceived dangers.
- ➔ The problem is that our first reactions are often \_\_\_\_\_.

### □ James’s Recommendation:

- ➔ Before you react, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ about your situation.
- ➔ What other \_\_\_\_\_ of the trial could there be?
- ➔ What \_\_\_\_\_ do I need to consider?
- ➔ Make a thoughtful \_\_\_\_\_ based on the biggest \_\_\_\_\_.
- ➔ If you \_\_\_\_\_ about your trial the right way, you can choose to \_\_\_\_\_ to it in the right way. (Genesis 45:1-8)

### □ A Challenge for You:

- ➔ Are you willing to examine your interpretations of your trials, along with the responses you’ve chosen, and admit you could be wrong?

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS  
**LIFE GROUPS** 

Debrief Plan: 10/6/2024

**Icebreakers:**

1. If you had your own talk show, who would be your first guest?
2. If you could eliminate one food from existence, which one would you choose?

**Sermon Summary:** When we encounter a trap that has been set to trip us up, we often make a snap judgment about what is happening or why it's happening and then immediately react to protect ourselves. The problem with this strategy is that we be so easily deceived. James encourages us to slow down and think through our situation from God's perspective before we react to it.

**Discussion Questions:**

**Read Genesis 45:1-8 together.**

1. Make a list as a group of all the tragedies that Joseph had experienced in his lifetime, from his youth in Canaan to his adulthood in Egypt.
2. Different people respond to tragedies in different ways. What are the various ways that people respond naturally to the tragedies that they face?
3. How do you think YOU would have been tempted to respond to Joseph's tragedies in you had gone through them? How would you feel about and relate to God as you were going through them?
4. What advantages do we have over Joseph when it comes to examining and finding evidence of God's goodness and purpose in our trials?
5. What are the biggest obstacles you have encountered when trying to interpret your trials from God's perspective, like Joseph did?
6. Why is it hard for us humans to admit that we might be wrong about the way that we see the trials in our lives or how we respond to them? Why isn't it easier to come clean and reexamine everything?