

**Mercies in Disguise:  
Questions for Discussion  
9 May 2015**



1. Think of a challenge you've faced, or are currently facing, in your life. Can you think of any 'blessings' that can be received as a result of the challenge? Would you prefer not to have endured the challenge if given the option?
2. Are hardships in life necessary? Is it easier to learn from some hardships more so than others?
3. What do you think of the idea of hardships as being 'blessings in disguise'?
4. Why might the blessings we think we want not be the things that we receive?
5. Can you think of a time in your life when you have seen or heard of a 'blessing in disguise'? At what point was the blessing recognised as a blessing?
6. What does James 1:2-3 say about the issue of hardships? What is your usual reaction when faced with hardships? Does this differ from the reaction recommended by James?
7. What do you think is more likely to bring you closer to God – hardship or contentment? Is it possible to have both simultaneously?
8. How do you keep a sense of perspective when faced with something that challenges you?
9. Are hardships more bearable if we know there is the promise of victory at the end?