

# DEAR ME,

Hi! How are you? I am writing you this letter because in worship today we read a really old letter written by a man named James. I thought it would be fun to write a letter, too.

In his letter, James wrote about how bad things can happen to us sometimes, but that God doesn't cause those bad things to happen. And then James gave us a bit of a challenge. Can we find God's love even in the worst moments in our lives? When we look back on bad things in our lives, can we find growth and hope there? Can we find good things right in the middle of the bad things? Does learning how to see those things take practice?

So here is what I'm going to do. I am going to think of something that I'm struggling with right now, something that makes me feel sad or angry or afraid. I'm going to write about it, or draw a picture of it, here in this letter:

Then I'm going to pray for wisdom and patience, and I'm going to put this letter away somewhere safe. Maybe in my sock drawer, or somewhere like that.

In six months – around Christmas time – I'm going to take this letter out and read it again. As I read my 6-month-old letter I'll remember reading James' super old letter. And I'll think about the situation that made me feel sad or angry or afraid. Did it get resolved? Did it change? Can I find signs of God's presence there? Can I find anything new or surprising growing out of that situation that changed me? What is it? Did I learn anything that will help me in the new year, which will be right around the corner?

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# LOVE, ME