

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Leader Conversation Guide – James (Part I)

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Curt started a new series on the book of James. We were reminded that God is not as interested in our “Amen” as He is in our obedience. No matter what trials we face in our lives, we can be sure that God is faithful. Though we may not understand the purpose behind some of life’s circumstances, our tests of our faith are what enable us to grow closer in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

JAMES 1:22 NIV

Make It Practical: Understanding Trials

- Trials are tests. James 1:3 reminds us, “that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” It’s important to know that God is more concerned with our character than our comfort.
- Tests have a purpose. There’s no pain in your life that doesn’t have a purpose. James 1:4 says, “Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
- Tests drive you to God. Instead of asking God to rescue you, try asking God to teach you. James 1:5 tells us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God... and it will be given to you.”
- Tests grow our faith. James 1:6-8 talks about how we should “believe and not doubt” and that “the one who doubts” is “double-minded and unstable in all they do.”
- Tests provide rewards. When we persevere through trials, we are rewarded. Be it here or Heaven, the Lord rewards the faithfulness of those who trust in Him.

Talk About It

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Have you ever wanted God to get you out of a trial, but realized that He wanted to get you through it? How can we learn to seek His perspective instead of the escape hatch?
- Why do you think God requires that we do not doubt before He gives us His wisdom?

"If you have never been tested then you can never be trusted."

Prayer

Father, thank You that even when I am faithless, You remain faithful. Help me in my unbelief to turn to You, and trust in You. Remind me to ask You for wisdom amidst my trials, and help me to learn what You are teaching me. Holy Spirit, guide me in peace and patience as I navigate life's circumstances, and help me to yield to Your work In my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Leader Tip

Encourage Group members to sign up for Growth Track! Week One takes place next week during second service across all locations!

