



## JAMES CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

### THE BOOK OF JAMES

- Although the book of James is one of the simplest and easy to understand books of the Bible because it speaks directly and plainly, this is also what makes it difficult to digest and even more difficult to process, because it speaks so transparently about what it means and looks like to walk faithfully as a man or woman of God.
- James was written by none other than James (the brother of Jesus) and the book is considered to be one of the earliest and first New Testament books that was written.
- Although there are many topics covered in the book of James, there are three themes that are repeatedly addressed and those themes are trials and temptations, wisdom, and a Christian's attitude towards wealth, resources and those who lack both wealth and resources.

#### **Discussion Starter**

- Would you characterize yourself as a person who easily catches on to the obvious or who is completely oblivious to the obvious? Explain.
- Are you a person who likes to sugarcoat things, so you don't hurt someone's feelings or are you a person who likes to get right to the point regardless of the costs?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

#### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

### Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.

### Read the Story (James 1:1-27)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### James 1:1-8

- Why is it significant that James refers to himself as a bondservant/servant/slave especially as it relates to how he refers to Jesus as Lord?
  - James' usage of the term literally underscores how he views himself in relationship to Jesus. James completely and unapologetically belongs to the Lord. His life and every part of his life and who he is belongs to Jesus and he isn't ashamed of this in any way.
    - In what ways does your life need to more fully reflect the following statement? "Lord, what You say, I will do and where You say to go, I will go."
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that for James, trials of various kinds are inevitable and shouldn't be surprising for the man or woman of God. He even uses the word "when" rather than "if." In what ways do you need to better prepare and equip yourself with the Lord for whatever life brings you?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### James 1:9-12

- Is James elevating the rich above the poor in this text or the poor above the rich or neither of these?

- James' point is not to exalt the rich above the poor or the poor above the rich in this text. Rather, his point is that the God, His love, grace, and mercy is for everyone and calls every single person to walk in humility regardless of their "status" or "position" in society.

- In what ways do you need to more fully realize that you aren't better than any person and that you aren't worse than any person when it comes to desperately needing Jesus and His forgiveness?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### James 1:13-18

- How do you position yourself for success in overcoming temptation prior to being tempted? Is this even possible?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that James says that temptation does not come from God or other external circumstances in this text. How do you take ownership for making the decision to sin rather than blaming someone or something else? In other words, how do you tangibly own the decisions you make to sin? What does this look like and in what ways do you need to grow in taking ownership?

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### James 1:19-27

- Of the three things mentioned in verse 19, which one is most difficult for you to live and why? What are you willing to do about this?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Consider that James uses the phrase “human anger.” What do you think this means? Isn’t all anger human anger?

- There is a righteous anger that is described in Scripture, anger that isn’t about protecting or vindicating self. Read John 2:13-18.

- How do you surrender your anger to the Lord?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What is one area of your life in which your knowledge about God does not match how you live out that knowledge? What can you do to claim the victory that God desires to give you in this?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

### Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (James Chapter 2)

## JAMES CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

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