

## JAMES CHAPTER 2 (FACILITATOR)

### **Discussion Starter**

- What is one thing about yourself that might surprise people to know?
- For those people that you know well, what do you think would be one of the first things they would say about you when describing you?
- **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 2:1-26)**

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

### **James 2:1-13**

- It is important to note that most people in this time were categorized, slave/free, Jew/Gentile, rich/poor, male/female, etc., and that these categories were utilized

as a frame of reference to determine the value that someone had. How do we as human beings categorize people today? Is this good or bad? Explain.

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice that how Christians see and treat people is intricately tied to whether we are honoring the Lord and tied to our faith in God.
- In what ways do you view and see people through your own biased and prejudiced lenses rather than through the eyes of faith and Jesus Christ? What can you do to more fully and intentionally see all people through the eyes of faith and Jesus Christ?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is James' argument against favoritism and partiality in verses 5-7 and why is this important for us to remember as followers of Jesus?
- James' argument is that those who are considered to be "less than" are frequently those individuals who have a deep amount of faith in God, ones that followers of Jesus might possibly need to be imitating and following. His argument is also rooted in the reality that those to whom partiality is being shown are frequently the ones who are not rich in faith.
    - What is convicting and sobering about the above realities as a Jesus follower?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

#### James 2:14-26

- Reread this section of text and consider the following questions.
- Is there anything about your walk with God that you approach from a legalistic standpoint? In other words, it's more about carrying out right

actions rather than paying close attention to your motives and thought processes?

- Is there anything about your walk with God where you seek to make excuses for your lack of intentionality in your actions?
  - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Read the following statements that “Enduring Word Biblical Commentary” makes regarding marks of “saving faith.” Which one of the following statements do you struggle with the most and why do you think this is?

- *It is faith that looks not to self, but to Jesus Christ.*
- *It is faith that agrees with God’s word, both inwardly and with words.*
- *It is faith that in itself is not a work that deserves reward from God; in this sense it is simply refusing to think God is a liar, and that in itself is not a good work, simply the absence of a sinful work.*
- *It is faith grounded in what Jesus did on the cross and by the empty tomb.*
- *It is faith that will naturally be expressed in repentance and good works.*
- *It is faith that may sometimes doubt; yet the doubts are not bigger than the faith nor are they more permanent than the faith. This faith can say, “Lord I believe; help my unbelief.”*
- *It is faith that wants others to come to the same faith.*
- *It is faith that says more than “Lord, Lord” as in Matthew 7:21-23.*
- *It is faith that not only hears the word of God but does it, as in Matthew 7:24-27.*

### 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 3)

## JAMES CHAPTER 2 (STUDENT)

### James 2:1-13

- It is important to note that most people in this time were categorized, slave/free, Jew/Gentile, rich/poor, male/female, etc., and that these categories were utilized as a frame of reference to determine the value that someone had. How do we as human beings categorize people today? Is this good or bad? Explain.
  
- Notice that how Christians see and treat people is intricately tied to whether we are honoring the Lord and tied to our faith in God.
  - In what ways do you view and see people through your own biased and prejudiced lenses rather than through the eyes of faith and Jesus Christ? What can you do to more fully and intentionally see all people through the eyes of faith and Jesus Christ?
  
- What is James' argument against favoritism and partiality in verses 5-7 and why is this important for us to remember as followers of Jesus?
  - What is convicting and sobering about the above realities as a Jesus follower?

### James 2:14-26

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  - Is there anything about your walk with God that you approach from a legalistic standpoint? In other words, it's more about carrying out right actions rather than paying close attention to your motives and thought processes?
  
  - Is there anything about your walk with God where you seek to make excuses for your lack of intentionality in your actions?

- Read the following statements that “Enduring Word Biblical Commentary” makes regarding marks of “saving faith.” Which one of the following statements do you struggle with the most and why do you think this is?
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  - *It is faith grounded in what Jesus did on the cross and by the empty tomb.*
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