

JAMES

Wisdom for the Everyday Stuff of Life

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 1: WISDOM FOR TRIALS

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: James 1:1-4

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. As you read through the book of James for the next couple of weeks, what questions come to mind? What's confusing or seems relevant to you? Write them down and use them to study the book more effectively.
2. James' readers are all in perilous situations, facing "Hard Times" in a variety of ways, what Hard Times are you dealing with?

3. How do you respond to James' exhortation to "count it all joy...when you meet trials of various kinds"? Does it seem fair? Possible?
4. How do you normally respond to hard times?
5. Is James' promise of steadfastness compelling to you? Does it seem worth it? Why or why not?
6. What is your "teleos" (the purpose for which you were created"? Who are you trying to be?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. How will you practically pursue joy in your hard times?
2. What are some ways that God is asking you to be steadfast so that His work can have it's full effect?
3. Who do you need around you to encourage you to stay steadfast? What do you need them to do?
4. What are some ways this week that you will choose to pursue your identity as a doulas of God?

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?