

James

Small Group Guide

Week 1: Prepare for the Journey

In this Series on the Book of James we will walk through the book of James and see how it tells students to prepare for the challenges of life ahead of them. We will look at 12 teachings about wholehearted devotion to Jesus and how we can mature our faith into wholeness.

Our memory verse for this series is James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

BACKGROUND

- 1) James is the brother of Jesus, the first leader of the church in Jerusalem
- 2) After the stoning of Stephen, the church is persecuted and dispersed
- 3) James is writing to all these people who have experienced trials with will experience more sufferings.
- 4) The book of James offers 12 teachings about how to become perfect and complete

POINT 1: PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY BY ORIENTING YOURSELF

- 1) Reorient Your Mind (James 1:2-4; 13-15)
- 2) Reorient Your Heart (James 1:5-8; 16-17)
- 3) Reorient Your Objective (James 1:9-12; 18)
 - a. Steadfastness (perseverance)
 - b. Perfect and Complete vs
 - c. Crown of Life
 - d. Firstfruits of his creatures

POINT 2: LIFE HAPPEN ONE STEP AT A TIME (FAITHFULNESS/REBELLION)

- 1) Understand it's one step at a time
 - a. 1:19: Hear, Speak, Anger
 - b. 1:14 Lured, Enticed, Desire grows, Sin, Death
- 2) Identify what steps of rebellion/distraction are most tempting to you
 - a. Get rid of distractions (sin) 1:21
 - b. Identify practical steps of faithfulness
- 3) Take a Step
 - a. Be doers of the word not just hearers

James
Small Group Guide
Week 1: Prepare for the Journey

Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

POINT 1: Prepare for the Journey

- *We spent so much time today talking about preparing for the journey, about getting oriented. Why do you think we need to take the time to orient ourselves before a journey?*
- *What do you think is the difference between orienting your mind and your heart?*

MIND

- *What are the ways that your mind (thinking) is disoriented?*
- *What are the messages from the world that seek to disorient our minds?*
- *Do you have friends that act in ways that don't make sense to you and it comes from how they're thinking?*

HEART

- *What are the ways that your heart is disoriented?*
- *What are the things that seek to pull or distract your heart? (phone, friends, comfort...)*
- *What do you need to do to set your heart on the things of God?*

OBJECTIVES

- *Are the objectives listed in James 1 your goals as well?*
- *What are your objectives? What are you striving for in life?*
- *Do objectives outside of God satisfy?*
- *What would it look like to seek wholeness our steadfastness in our walk with God?*

POINT 2: LIFE HAPPENS ONE STEP AT A TIME

- *Do you ever try to skip steps in life? "I'm 14 but I wanna be 18"*
- *Why do we need to be reminded that life happens one step at a time?*
- *What would be a practical step you could take that would take you further from sin or closer to God?*
- *What keeps you from taking that next step?*
- *Will you take your next step towards God?*