

OF JAMES

James Part 1
Spiritual Groundhog Day
Pastor Dave Patterson
2.10.19

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

~~Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.~~

1 Corinthians 15:10 (TPT)

But **God's amazing grace** has made me who I am! And his grace to me was not fruitless. In fact, **I worked harder than all the rest**, yet not in my own strength but God's, for his empowering grace is poured out upon me.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)

"...and we are **progressively being transformed into His image** from [one degree of] glory to [even more] glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

James 1:1 (VOICE)

James, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, to the twelve tribes *of Israel* who are spread across the earth: I send you my warmest welcome!

John 7:4-5

You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" **For even his brothers didn't believe in him.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,**

Servant = *Doulos* / One who willingly devotes to another to the disregard of their own interests

James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials (test) of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

How do we get out of spiritual Groundhog Day?

- 1. Identify the author of the test** (storm)
 - Self-inflicted? (if so, repent)
 - Satan designed? (if so, use spiritual weapons and armor)
 - God-allowed? (if so, endure, and ask for wisdom)

- 2. Ask for wisdom on how to navigate the storm**
 - Wisdom = getting God's perspective on the situation
 - Don't doubt! A divided heart produces instability.

James 1:5-8 (NLT)

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

- 3. Eliminate the options** (develop an undivided heart)
 - John 6:68 – example of Peter.

James 1:6-8 (NLT)

But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not

expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

*Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.*

Psalm 86:11

TALK IT THROUGH

Welcome to the new 7-part series on the book of James!

- Key verse for the book is: (2:17) *Even so faith, if it has no works is dead, being by itself.*
 - Written by James, Jesus' younger half-brother, to Believers, around 47 AD.
 - It's known as the first written and most practical book in the New Testament. God wants us to get our theology into every day of our lives.
1. Read John 7:3-5, 1 Corinthians 15:3-7, Acts 1:12-14 and James 1:1, and note the progression of James' behavior. Compare his tone toward Jesus before the cross (Jn. 7), his behavior afterward, and how he identified himself in James 1:1. What moved James from a critic to a bond-servant?
 2. Briefly share with the group your God encounter and how it has changed your life - your understanding of God.
 3. Read James 1:2-8, 12. The trials and tests God allows in our lives are meant for what purposes (vv. 2-4)? Therefore, James admonishes us to have what attitude and response to trials? Is that response your typical default? Why or why not? How can we make it our response?
 4. Pastor Dave said "wisdom" is getting God's perspective of the situation. Is there an area in your life today in which you need God's perspective? According to James, how are we to go about getting God's perspective in a trial?
 5. What are other resources we often go to for wisdom? Are they all bad?
 6. (James 1:6-8) When we ask God for wisdom, how are we to ask? Said another way, what should be the attitude of our heart?
 7. Read John 6:68. What do you think about Peter's declaration? How can we develop this undivided stance in our hearts? What difference would it make if we did?

To prepare for the full study in James, encourage your group members to read through this short book as many times as possible over the next several weeks. *Have a great week!*