

**D-GROUP
BIBLE READING
PLAN**

Fall 2024



SESSION SNAPSHOT

DON'T WASTE YOUR INFLUENCE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Esther 4:7-17

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Mark 8:35

TAKEAWAYS:

- Use your influence for God's glory
- Prayer and fasting are a powerful combination

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Zechariah 1:1-6; 2; 12
- Ezra 7-8
- Ezra 9-10
- Esther 1-2
- Esther 3-4

STUDY THE WORD

What is your favorite book you've ever read?

What about it do you love?

Why do you think the author didn't include any explicit mentions of God in this book?

How is it helpful to you to see God working behind the scenes in the events of this account?

How does God's "absence" highlight Esther's faith?

***Why are these two statements so difficult to balance:
God is in control.
We have a responsibility to act.***

What is the purpose of fasting?

When is a time you have fasted before? Tell us about what led you to fast and what came of it.

Do you think that fasting is something we should make a habit of? Why or why not?

Read Mark 8:35. How does Esther's attitude illustrate Jesus' words?

What do you think it means to put our lives on the line for the sake of the Gospel?

What do you think it looks like to do this today, in our context?

Where are places in your life where you have influence--even if it is just a little bit?

What does it look like for someone in your position to use their influence to bring God glory?

APPLY THE WORD

Esther was in a place where she had influence over a lot of people. Not all of us are like her in that regard, but each of us has people who listen to what we have to say. When we start recognizing the places we have influence, we can start using it for God's glory.

Where do you personally need to be intentional about leveraging the kind of influence you have for God's glory?

What are some ways in which your prayer life needs to improve?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Esther 5-7***
- ***Esther 8-10***
- ***Nehemiah 1-2***
- ***Nehemiah 3-4***
- ***Nehemiah 5-6***



SESSION SNAPSHOT

GROWING THROUGH OPPOSITION

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Nehemiah 6:1-19

GOSPEL FOCUS:

James 1:2-3

TAKEAWAYS:

- You will face opposition when doing God's work.
- Facing opposition will build your endurance and your faith.

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Esther 5-7
- Esther 8-10
- Nehemiah 1-2
- Nehemiah 3-4
- Nehemiah 5-6

STUDY THE WORD

Has anybody ever spread a rumor about you?

How did it affect you? How did the rumor eventually dissipate?

When is a time you've seen false information get spread around.

How did that information affect the people who heard it?

Did it ever get cleared up? How?

Nehemiah's observation in verse 2 and response in verse 3 demonstrated his discernment.

How would you define discernment?

Do you consider yourself discerning?

When have you needed to exercise discernment (or when would some discernment have come in handy)?

Knowing what kinds of tactics the opposition is going to use helps us prepare for them before they get here.

What kind of opposition should believers expect to face?

How should we deal with opposition?

Think back to times that you have been discouraged.

What tends to discourage you the most?

What measures can you take to avoid being discouraged in your walk with the Lord and in doing His work?

APPLY THE WORD

You are going to be discouraged in your walk with the Lord. It is going to happen. It might be happening now.

That is okay. We can prepare ahead of time because we know as believers that discouragement is going to happen. We can still be focused on the tasks set before us and keep our eyes trained on the Lord, who is more than capable of pulling us through.

What is the task the Lord is setting you aside to accomplish?

What is the first step toward accomplishing that task you can take this week?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Nehemiah 7-8***
- ***Nehemiah 9***
- ***Nehemiah 10***
- ***Nehemiah 11***



SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE WORD THAT DOES THE WORK

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Nehemiah 8:1-12

GOSPEL FOCUS:

John 1:14

TAKEAWAYS:

- The Word, by itself, will do work in your life.
- A heart saturated with the Word will lead to hands that do God's work.

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Nehemiah 7-8
- Nehemiah 9
- Nehemiah 10
- Nehemiah 11
- Nehemiah 12

STUDY THE WORD

When is a time in your life that you've been the most grateful for the people around you?

How do you, personally, approach reading the Word of God?

Is it easy or hard for you to hear God speaking through it?

Ezra took practical steps to make understanding the Word easier for the people.

In your own individual study, what can you do to create an environment to hear God speak?

The Word of God is living and active.

Tell about a time when a verse or passage seemed to come to you at the perfect time.

What is something you've read on your own through the weekly reading that has stuck out to you lately?

What did the Lord tell you through it?

Refer back to Verse 9.

What was the people's reaction to reading the Word?

What kind of reaction do you usually have when you read it?

What resources do you have available to you to help you understand the Word better--to the point that it physically moves you?

Refer to verse 12.

What did the Word motivate the people to do?

What has reading the Word today motivated you to do?

What can we do to let our lives be directed by God's Word?

APPLY THE WORD

As we grow in our journey to let God's Word saturate our lives, we will find that it will lead us to an amazing place: God's presence. When we let it change us from the inside, we will find that the overflow affects our whole being and spills out to the people around us.

Weigh the time you spend in God's Word and in prayer against other things you're involved in. Is there a good ratio between the two?

What do you need to start this week to make that ratio better?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Nehemiah 13***
- ***Malachi 1***
- ***Malachi 2***
- ***Malachi 3***
- ***Malachi 4***



SESSION SNAPSHOT

WORTHLESS WORSHIP

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Malachi 1:6-14

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Hebrews 11:6

TAKEAWAYS:

- Give God your best
- Raise your commitment level

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Nehemiah 13
- Malachi 1
- Malachi 2
- Malachi 3
- Malachi 4

STUDY THE WORD

What was something you recently did that excited you?

Follow-up: when have you had to do something you weren't excited about?

What was the issue God had with how the Priests were worshipping?

What do you think that worship is?

How do you fight against an apathetic attitude toward worship?

How do you see worship trivialized in a "culture" of Christianity?

What are things you can focus on to ensure you are ascribing proper worth to God throughout your day?

Look at how God addresses the priests' attitudes in verse 8.

In what ways do we give God less than what's best?

What do you think that the "sacrificed animals" in this verse looks like today?

How does doing something for the Lord with only half of our heart demonstrate lack of faith?

What do you think the psalmist meant by having a broken and contrite heart?

How does that relate to our acts of worship, regardless of what they are?

APPLY THE WORD

The priests in today's passage had a worship disorder. In fact, we all do: that's what sin boils down to. When we sin, we are simply misappropriating our worship. We're taking attention, actions, and thoughts that should be devoted to obedience and reverence for the Lord and directing them toward something else. It's when we make ourselves the most important thing in our hearts.

Let's take a lesson from the priests in Malachi. Use this as an opportunity to address what the primary focus of your life is.

What does it look like for you to honor God with your daily life?

What is one step you can take this week toward honoring God better this week?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Luke 1***
- ***Luke 2***
- ***Matthew 1-2***
- ***Mark 1***
- ***John 1***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE WORD BREAKING THROUGH THE SILENCE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

John 1:19-34

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world

TAKEAWAYS:

- Trust in God during the good times and the bad
- God is not as interested in our happiness as He is in our holiness

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Luke 1
- Luke 2
- Matthew 1-2
- Mark 1
- John 1

STUDY THE WORD

What was the last thing you remember having to wait a long time for?

Was the wait worth it? Why or why not?

John's introduction of Jesus when he finally saw Him was short but powerful. If someone were introducing you, what would you want them to say?

John said that he wrote his gospel so that we may know that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31). Why do you think he began with this account of John the Baptist?

What does that reveal about Jesus (and about Scripture)?

How does it affect you today?

John could have said anything about Jesus when He showed up, but he chose "Lamb of God." What role does a lamb play in regards to sin?

How is "Lamb of God" a great, quick summary of who Jesus is?

How do you think the average churchgoer views Jesus?

How do you think the average person on the street views Jesus?

How do you view Jesus?

As John was preaching about Jesus, he was asked, "who are you?" How do you think that you would answer that question?

Why do you think it's sometimes difficult to come up with an answer for that question?

John used who he was to make way for the Messiah. How can you use who you are to highlight Jesus?

APPLY THE WORD

The period of waiting for Israel was a period of refinement. They knew that something--or someone--was coming, but they couldn't see Him yet.

We are on the other side of that gap in God's revelation: we've already seen the Messiah, but now we look back at when He arrived instead of forward to when He would. God works in our waiting and will always, always, accomplish His purpose on His time.

Who is Jesus to you, really?

How does that view of Jesus affect your life?

What is a change that you feel you need to make in light of who Jesus is?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Matthew 3-4***
- ***Matthew 5***
- ***Matthew 6***
- ***Matthew 7***
- ***Matthew 8***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

ARE YOU GOOD FOR NOTHING?

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Matthew 5:13-16

GOSPEL FOCUS:

John 8:12

TAKEAWAYS:

- If you claim allegiance to the King, you will live according to His Kingdom
- We must be separated from sin, but not isolated from sinners

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Matthew 3-4
- Matthew 5
- Matthew 6
- Matthew 7
- Matthew 8

STUDY THE WORD

What is your favorite meal to eat?

Why is it your favorite? Is it because of taste? Memories? Ease of access?

Salt is commonly used to purify, season, and preserve.

Have you ever been around someone whose presence seemed to purify, season, and preserve the people around them?

What was being around that person like?

How do you think the world views Christians today?

How do you think the world wants Christians to behave?

How should Christians behave, in light of both of these things?

As believers, what can we do to act as salt and light to the people around us?

What kind of reaction do you think that people will have to that?

Salt cannot “lose” saltiness, but it can have its saltiness diluted down to nothing by outside influences.

What are actions or attitudes that reduce believers’ effectiveness?

What are actions or attitudes that reduce your effectiveness to those around you?

Jesus called His followers to “be light.” Who is someone you know whom you’d describe as a “light”?

What makes you say that about them?

What do you think someone could change who wants to increase their “brightness”?

APPLY THE WORD

Jesus' charge to those sitting on the hillside when this sermon was given is no different than the charge He gives His followers today. We are to be someone who enhances the flavor of the room we're in, who whets people's appetites for the things of God, who stands as a beacon pointing people wandering in the dark toward safety.

We can be all of those things, because Jesus will help us.

Do you think your life is "salty"? Light? Why or why not?

What are things you need to cut out--actions, attitudes, etc.--in order to effectively be salt and light to the people in your life?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Luke 9:10-62***
- ***Mark 9-10***
- ***Luke 12***
- ***John 3-4***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
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SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Luke 9:23-27

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Philippians 1:21

TAKEAWAYS:

- The value of your life will be measured not by your success but by your obedience
- You can only say two things: "I wish I had" or "I'm glad I did."

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Luke 9:10-62
- Mark 9-10
- Luke 12
- John 3-4
- Luke 14

STUDY THE WORD

What have you accomplished that you are most proud of?

What do you think Jesus meant by “deny yourself?”

How is this different from what we hear from the world?

How do you see people around you trying to “save” their lives?

What do you think it means that those who try to save their lives will lose it?

How does it change the way you see your situations and decisions when you consider living as a Kingdom citizen?

A cross is not just some burden that you have to bear; it’s an instrument of death and total sacrifice. How does this color your understanding of verse 23?

What will truly following Jesus cost you?

Turn to and read Philippians 1:21.

How have you found life with Christ to be truly living?

How does it differ from living life without Him?

Living with Jesus will cost us, but living without Him will cost us differently. What do you think it would cost to not follow Jesus?

In your opinion, is following Jesus worth it? Why?

APPLY THE WORD

Telling us to die to self is a big ask. Nobody knew that better than Jesus did. He knows because He did that exact thing and asked us to follow Him.

The only way we will be able to do what He instructed us to do in this passage is through absolute surrender. It means we take our life out of our hands and lay it down at the feet of the King who is sovereign over everything.

What does “absolute surrender” mean to you?

Are you absolutely surrendered to the King of Kings?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***John 6***
- ***Matthew 19:16-30***
- ***Luke 15-16***
- ***Luke 17:11-37; 18***
- ***Mark 10***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
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SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE TALE OF TWO SINNERS

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Luke 15:11-32

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Luke 15:22-24

TAKEAWAYS:

- Maybe you're the prodigal: will you accept your invitation to the party?
- Maybe you're the older brother: would you stop working and come in to the party?

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- John 6
- Matthew 19:16-30
- Luke 15-16
- Luke 17:11-37; 18
- Mark 10

STUDY THE WORD

***What is something you've qualified for before?
How did you qualify for it? What did you need to do?***

Glance at verses 1 and 2. What is the context of this parable? Who is Jesus speaking to, and why is He saying what he's saying?

How do you think Jesus' audience would have reacted to the younger son's actions?

What do you think it means that the man in the story "came to his senses"?

When is a time you, or someone you know, has had to come to senses? What led to that point, and what came of it?

Do you think the son demonstrated real remorse?

Why or why not? What does real remorse look like?

How do you think you'd be feeling if you were in the father's shoes?

How do you think the "prodigal" son was feeling?

Have you ever been forgiven of something—no conditions, no caveats, just pure forgiveness? How did it make you feel?

We talked about how the audience might have reacted to the younger son's actions. How do you think they would have reacted to the older son's complaints?

How do each of the sons demonstrate disrespect for their father? Which of them do you think was more disrespectful?

What do you make of the ending of the parable? What loose ends does Jesus leave for us to ponder? Why do you think He left the parable that way?

APPLY THE WORD

We don't know whether the older son came inside. We don't know whether the younger son's repentance was genuine—whether he began living with respect for his father. We don't know what became of either of their hearts. But that's not the point—Jesus showed us the kind of love the Father has for His children, completely explaining why He of all people would be hanging out with those the Pharisees deemed unworthy.

Fortunately, we serve a God who, like the father in this parable, runs to us when we return. He also gives us favor not based on our faithfulness but based on the fact that we are His children.

Which of the sons do you identify more with and why?

In what area of your life are you far from God right now? What step do you need to take to get back to Him?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***John 11; Matthew 21:1-13***
- ***John 13***
- ***John 14-15***
- ***John 16***
- ***Matthew 24:1-31***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
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SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD PERSON OF THE TRINITY

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

John 15:26 - 16:15

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Ephesians 4:4-6

TAKEAWAYS:

- God created a people to be His Temple
- You can be empowered by the Holy Spirit today

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- John 11; Matthew 21:1-13
- John 13
- John 14-15
- John 16
- Matthew 24:1-31

STUDY THE WORD

If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?

These words from Jesus all come less than 24 hours before Jesus would die, and He knew it. If you knew you had 24 hours to live, what kinds of things would you want to tell your closest friends and family?

Why do you think that this teaching would have been difficult to listen to?

How do you think Jesus' words were comforting in this difficult moment?

Jesus told His disciples some considerably troubling things in John 16:2-3. What should followers of Jesus expect to encounter?

How is learning about the Holy Spirit going to comfort them?

What has been your experience with the Holy Spirit?

What do you know about who He is?

Jesus said that it's for their benefit that He goes away and the Holy Spirit comes in His place. Why is it better for us that we have the Spirit instead of Jesus' physical, bodily presence on the Earth?

Glance through what Jesus said the Spirit will do again. Which is most comforting to you? Why?

How do you experience the Holy Spirit today?

Where do you need His guidance, comfort, assurance, or power?

How do you think you can learn to rely on the Spirit better?

APPLY THE WORD

Learning to trust the Spirit is like building muscle. As we learn more about what He does and we actively seek Him out to help us, we will get better at relying on Him.

For some of us, learning to rely on the Spirit will be a longer process than it will be for others. You can take small steps toward this now. One of the best ways to hear what the Spirit is telling you is to stop, be still, and simply listen.

Before you close your time in prayer, take a few minutes to simply sit in silence. Open yourself to hearing from the Holy Spirit, and then respond to these questions on your own:

Are you surrendered to the work of the Spirit in your life?

Have you died to self and allowed Him to work through you?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Matthew 24:32-51***
- ***John 17***
- ***Matthew 26:35 - 27:31***
- ***Matthew 27:32-66***
- ***John 19***



WORD MADE FLESH

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE CROWD OR CHRIST: WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Matthew 27:11-26

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Just as Jesus was a physical substitute for Barabbas, He is a spiritual substitute for us.

TAKEAWAYS:

- Who you follow today will affect where you spend eternity tomorrow
- You have a choice: walk under the blood of Jesus or walk over it

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Matthew 24:32-51
- John 17
- Matthew 26:35 - 27:31
- Matthew 23:26-56
- John 19

STUDY THE WORD

What is the most impactful thing someone has done for you?

Jesus said in Matthew 12:30 that if we aren't for Him, we're against Him. How do we have to make this choice today?

Name some areas in which we must choose to follow either Christ or the crowd, and describe what following Christ looks like in those situations.

The people in the crowd chose Barabbas over Jesus. Everyone's "Barabbas" looks different from their neighbor's. For some it might be lust. For some it might be comfort. How do you, personally, feel pressure from the crowd to choose something other than Jesus?

Do some speculation: How do you think Barabbas felt when they called his name that day?

How about when he heard the crowd chanting his name?

When he learned what Jesus was doing in his place?

In what ways are we like Barabbas?

What do you think of Pilate's actions in today's passage?

What do you think of the crowd's insistence to see Jesus put to death?

In what ways are we like the crowd in today's passage?

Jesus went into this situation knowing how it would unfold. He went to the cross knowing that people would choose sin over His sacrifice every day.

How did Jesus treat the people who asked for His death?

What does He offer you, even when you fail Him?

APPLY THE WORD

Charles Spurgeon wrote, “I impeach humanity again of the utmost possible folly; because, in crucifying Christ, it crucified its best friend. Jesus Christ was not only the friend of man, so as to take human nature upon himself, but he was the friend of sinners, so that he came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost.”

It doesn't matter how far gone you think you are, Jesus' death is sufficient to cover your sin. His mercy is grand enough to cover your shame. His death is sufficient to pay the penalty for whatever you have done, so that you can enjoy fellowship with the Father even though you have done nothing to earn it.

Think of someone you can show the kind of mercy, compassion, and for giveness that Jesus shows you. How can you show these things to them?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Mark 16***
- ***Luke 24***
- ***John 20-21***
- ***Matthew 28***
- ***Acts 1***

WORD MADE FLESH

THE
WORD

SESSION SNAPSHOT

SEEING FAILURE THROUGH GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

John 21:1-22

GOSPEL FOCUS:

John 21:22

TAKEAWAYS:

- Every one of us has failures and needs forgiveness
- Every one of us has a future empowered by the Gospel

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Mark 16
- Luke 24
- John 20-21
- Matthew 28
- Acts 1

STUDY THE WORD

What is a smell, a song, or a location that triggers strong memories for you?

Tell about a time you experienced failure.

How did that failure make you feel?

What did it take for you to move on from that failure?

What are the two commands Jesus gives Peter in verses 15 and 22?

How are these two commands related?

How can you tell if someone is following Jesus?

What was Jesus' response to Peter's uncertainty in v.22?

What is something that you're uncertain, or perhaps even fearful about?

How does Jesus' answer speak to you today?

How often do you stop in the middle of a trial or in the wake of a failure to refocus on the true mission: following Jesus?

What can you do this week to refocus on the calling to which you have been called?

APPLY THE WORD

No matter what failure you're facing, no matter what storm you're in the middle of, Jesus is bigger than it. He stands ready to forgive and restore us and He asks only one thing, the same thing He asked Peter:

Follow Me.

What failure do you need to take to Jesus to seek His restoration and for giveness?

Who is someone who has failed you that you can reach out to with forgive ness?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Acts 2-3***
- ***Acts 4-5***
- ***Acts 6***
- ***Acts 7***
- ***Acts 8-9***



SESSION SNAPSHOT

REACHING THE WORLD GOD'S WAY

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Acts 2:1-13

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Acts 2:38

TAKEAWAYS:

- The Gospel came to you because it was heading to someone else
- We must depend on the Holy Spirit to complete His work

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Acts 2-3
- Acts 4-5
- Acts 6
- Acts 7
- Acts 8-9

STUDY THE WORD

What kinds of experiences have you had in the past when talking about “the work of the Holy Spirit”? Have they been positive? Negative? Confusing?

How have you observed the Holy Spirit at work?

81% of the world’s non-Christians do not personally know a Christian. What do your communities and friend groups look like?

Why do you think we surround ourselves with people who think and act like we do?

How do you think that the world sees the Church today?

Why do or don’t you think this is accurate?

What do you think the Church is?

When the Holy Spirit empowered this group of believers, they were immediately unified. On a whole, how unified do you feel the body of believers is? Why do you say that?

When is a time you’ve felt unity with the people around you?

What made this particular move of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 so impactful to Christianity as a whole?

What do you think a move of the Holy Spirit would look like in our context today? Have you seen something like what you’re describing before?

The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was an act of clarity. It made the message of the Gospel accessible to more people. How can the church be a force of clarity today?

What does a “life on mission” look like in your context?

What are steps you can take to being someone who both models and proclaims the Gospel?

What do you think a church genuinely filled with the Spirit would look like?

How do you think you can move your church, community, or even just your small group toward this goal?

APPLY THE WORD

Even when the Spirit is poured out on a huge number of people, each person has the responsibility of how they will personally respond. It is on each of us to ask ourselves whether the power of God is living inside of us—and what we are to do as a result.

Take a few minutes on your own to ponder the following before closing in prayer:

Have I been filled with the Holy Spirit? If so, what is God calling me to do as a result?

***If I haven't been, what in my life is quenching Him (1 Thessalonians 5)?
What in my life is grieving Him (Ephesians 4:29-32)?***

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Acts 10-11***
- ***Acts 12***
- ***Acts 13-14***
- ***James 1-2***
- ***James 3-5***



SESSION SNAPSHOT

DON'T QUIT, STAY THE COURSE

NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

James 1:1-8

GOSPEL FOCUS:

Matthew 6:24

TAKEAWAYS:

- We can expect trials in this life
- We can experience God through these trials

LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Acts 10-11
- Acts 12
- Acts 13-14
- James 1-2
- James 3-5

STUDY THE WORD

Have you ever completed a difficult test of endurance?

What was the secret to finishing it strong?

James described himself as a “slave of God” in v.1. What characteristics, behaviors, or qualities would a slave or servant of God have?

Describe someone you know whom you would consider to be God’s servant.

Why does James say that trials should be joyful things?

Do you think that we should actually consider it joy when we face trials, or is that just a nice Christian thing to say? Why?

Share a time when you faced a trial.

What do you think it means to be “indecisive” or “double-minded”?

Tell about a time when you’ve seen someone seek wisdom from both God and the world.

When is it most difficult for you to walk closely with God?

How can we remain close to Him even when it’s hard?

What is a practical tip you could give someone who wants to know how to better remain in Christ?

APPLY THE WORD

The key to seeing trials as joy-producing experiences depends on the view we have them. If you are focused on the situation itself, it can be overwhelming. But if your eyes are on Christ and what you can learn from the situation to better apply sometime in the future, we can see what James was talking about in verse 4.

Would you consider yourself a servant of God? Why or why not?

What is a perspective you need to change this week?

What is the first step you need to take toward changing that perspective?

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Next Week's Reading:

- ***Acts 15-16***
- ***Galatians 1-3***
- ***Galatians 4-6***
- ***Acts 17 - 18:17***
- ***1 Thessalonians 1-2***

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