



Sermon Discussion Guide

James, the Brother of Jesus - Tim Knipp

March 6, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.*
- Watch The Bible Project's overview of the book of James.
<https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>
- Share memories, complications, joys of having siblings if you have them. share how your relationship has changed since you were little. If you don't have siblings, perhaps another family member. .

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.*
- **Re-read James 1:1-11**
- Read the additional passages about James' life
 - Mark 6:3 identified that Jesus had siblings
 - John 7:4 a little rivalry
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 Jesus appeared to James after the resurrection
 - Acts 12:1-2 James' death because of his passion for his brother's message. .
- Pastor Tim mentioned 6 imperatives in just the 11 verses read this morning. Read the rest of James chapter 1 and list the advice, commands, imperatives that are written. Choose one that is most interesting, challenging, or encouraging and discuss.

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- With advice we are invited to alter how we see things and how we proceed day to day. Of the advice/commands in verses 1-11, which are lacking within the church? The community? Ourselves?



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- Pick one of the following commands and complete the sentence: "If I/we/our community _____, how would things change?"
 - Consider it pure joy...
 - Let perseverance finish its work...
 - Ask God who gives generously...
 - Believe and not doubt...
 - Let the poor take pride in their high position... Let the rich take pride in their humility...
- "Following" someone or something on social media, radio, television, etc is part of what many would call normal life. Compare following these things with following James' joyful admonishing and advice from Jesus' teaching. Discuss the benefits and/or hardships, perhaps in either.

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- Tim talked about three themes. Trials, wisdom, money. Is there one thing that you feel most interested in? Is there one theme that makes you feel nervous?
- Do you relate to James in his early life as a skeptic? When he first began following Jesus? Or is James the teacher who is passing on his wisdom to others?
- Deeper question. Name and area of your life in which you're longing for completeness. Can you describe what completeness in that area might look like?
- Does knowing that James died as a martyr for Jesus affect how you view his words? Why or why not.

Time of Prayer