Sermon Discussion Guide
The Word that Works - James Junior
10-25-26

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
- *James asked us to ask ourselves this question: Has someone ever said something to you that stuck, and kept shaping you long after they said it? Something that changed how you saw yourself, or how you lived?*
- *Music! Listen to Rich Mullins "Cry the Name." As a great matching of receiving the word of God and the speaking of it to the world around us. Compare it to the sermon on Sunday. And if you're not a Rich Mullins fan, try the version by Jill Phillips, or the one by John Van Deusen.*
    - *Rich Mullins - Cry The Name*
    - *Jill Phillips (and Andrew Peterson) - https://youtu.be/feZguRGDimg?si=FOf_dToTqIRLr0Ts*
    - *John Van Deusen - https://youtu.be/vpAmbR_y5mQ?si=uKFQnNO-1pMOyvCk*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**: 1 Thessalonians 2:13 - At Pastor James' suggestion - maybe read the entire book... again... aloud as a group.*
- *Take some time to practice some Bible study methods! Ask the questions: Who, what, where, when, why, and how? Who is being written to? Who are the characters? What are they describing? What is being clarified? Where would this have happened? Where was Paul when he was writing? Etc.*
- *Take some time to reflect on God speaking throughout the scriptures. Whether it's creation, or when Jesus is baptized, or from the sermon this week when the Thessalonians heard the word/voice of God through Paul, Silas, and Timothy. In what ways does God speak to us? What does he say to His bride, the church?*

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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.*
- *Who are the speakers of the word of God today? Who are the receivers? What are some barriers to receiving? Think in multiple areas:'*
    - *Those in 3rd world countries - barriers? Lack of food, running water, war zones*
    - *My neighbor - barriers? Been burned by the church previously, medical issues*
- *What do we think could change if we speak the word to those we know? Speak the word in action, in word, in testimony, etc?*
- *What would it mean for Christians to also receive the word even after believing and following? What does that mean for our lives?*

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.*
- *How did the word of God come to you? Through a person, through music, through words on a page? How did you receive it?*
- *What barriers do you have to being the bringer of the word to others?*
- *What did it/does it feel like to have God's word rooted in you? Describe what that means? Does it mean security, inspiration, concern?*

Time of Prayer