

JAMES

WEEK 1

Scott Lanigan (October 30-31, 2021)

JAMES 1

Faith is not just an idea but a reality.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. When is a time that you stepped out in faith?
2. In your perseverance, I AM WHO I AM stands as with you. What do you discover about God as you persevere?
3. If you have to persevere through something for God, what type of person do you hope to become?

LOOK TO THE WORD

Read James 1.

- What stood out? (e.g. themes, verses, recurring thoughts, images)
- What questions stand out?
- What is one key verse?

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

- When you "listen to the word", what is someone listening for?
- Why would listening to the word lead to deception?
- What is the difference between listening and doing?
 - Why isn't listening the thing you're actually doing?

THE BOOK OF

JAMES

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds...

James 1:2

- What is joy?
- Why does James call the reader "brothers and sisters"?
- What types of trials is James referring to?

... because you know, the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2

- "because you know", James is referring to already existing knowledge. Why would they know?
- Why is a trial "the testing of your faith"?
- What is perseverance according to James?

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:22

- What does it mean to James that someone is "blessed"?
- What is the "crown of life"?
- What does it mean to the follower of Jesus to "receive the crown of life"?

LOOK INWARD

Scott said, "James is all about function, not theory."

- What is one function of living for Jesus that stood out to you in James 1?
- Why did it stand out?
- How does that function apply to your life today?

Scott also said "Faith is no just an idea but a reality"

- In what ways can people approach faith as an ideology, instead of a reality?
- What parts of Christianity feel like a "good idea"?
- What parts of Christianity feel like an amazing new "reality"?

Faith is ultimately a response to God.

- What is one way that you uniquely respond to God?
- What is one way God may be asking you to step out in a new way to respond?

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Trials lead to perseverance of faith, which leads to a “crown of life”.

- When have you faced a trial and discovered something about yourself?
- How have trials tested your faith?
- How have trials strengthened your faith?
- What does it mean for you to receive the “crown of life”?

LOOK OUTWARD

Scott said, “There are people who need a real faith, from real people, dealing with real things.”

- What does James teach us about people watching our lives of faith?
- Who is watching you live a life of faith?
- What real things are others persevering through that your faith can help encourage?
- How are you praying for someone who is going through a trial and needs an encouragement in their faith?

SO WHAT?

Following Jesus means climbing tripping dusting ourselves off and climbing some more. Faith isn’t a business trip walked on a sidewalk. It is an adventure worked out on a steep and sometimes difficult trail.” – Bob Goff

BREATH PRAYER

God, I stand firm in the knowledge that my trials are never wasted.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

Prayer

Take 5 minutes each day. Begin with 1 minute of silence. Use 3 minutes to ask God to show you who you will become as you persevere. Close with 1 minute of silence.

NOTE: During the silence, choose a very simple prayer to express your openness and desire for God (e.g. a name of God or character; like Father, Spirit, Jesus, Faithful One, Here I am Lord.) When you become distracted, offer again this simple prayer/word back to God.

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GROUP LEADERS / GUIDES

We have 30+ people looking for community groups over the last 3 weeks. Considering host a group and facilitating conversations as we follow the way of Jesus together.

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God that He is I AM WHO I AM in our trials
- Praise God that He will never leave us or forsake us
- Pray for the Next Gen retreat on Nov 12-14 at Gardom Lake Bible Camp
- Pray for the YA Gathering on Nov 7 at Green Bay Bible Camp
- Pray for new community groups to launch and help people connect into community
- Pray for the renewal and renovation of our main building; praying for God's provision in our Capital Renewal efforts
- Pray that God will continue to reveal Himself in practical ways as we learn from James' letter to the Church