

THE BOOK OF

# JAMES

## WEEK 2

Josh Raine (November 6-7, 2021))

## JAMES 2

James calls his community into freedom, mercy & action.

## TALK ABOUT IT

1. Name your top 3 favourites: mix and match (people, places, things, meals, etc)?
2. As God calls us to freedom and mercy, what do we learn about Him?
3. What is one way you know you want to put in the effort to move your faith into action?

## LOOK TO THE WORD

Read James 2.

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

*Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. James 2:1*

- Who is James addressing in James 2:1?
- What are examples of Biblical favouritism gone wrong?
- Why does the Lordship of Jesus matter to the call against anti-favouritism?

*But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law breakers.*

James 2:9

- Why is favouritism a sin?
- How does the sin of favouritism affect 'believers'? How does favouritism affect the surrounding community?

THE BOOK OF

# JAMES

*Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.*

James 2:12

- How does James expect it to look like; speaking and acting like those who are free?
- What do we learn about God that He gives His community the opportunity for freedom?

*Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*

James 2:18

- Does James believe it is able to show your faith without deeds? Why or why not?
- How does James expect you to show your faith by your deeds? Find examples in the rest of his letter. (See example, James 1:27)
- Read James 2:24. What is "righteous" mean?

## LOOK INWARD

James' 3 Big ideas: Favouritism fractures community, The Law is Unyielding, Faith requires action.

- Which of these stands out to you most? Why?
- How have you experienced favouritism?
- How have you experienced legalism or unyielding laws?
- How have you experienced faith in action?

Josh asked, "How often are we hung up on the rules of faith (what needs to be right) and we miss out on what is true?"

- What rules do you have for your faith?
- How do they impact how you understand Jesus and the world around you?
- Take time to talk about the difference between 'right' and 'true' with your group.

*Grace is not opposed to effort. It's opposed to earning.* – Dallas Willard

- What about your faith requires effort?
- How can effort sometimes feel like earning?

THE BOOK OF

# JAMES

- How does effort move you towards freedom and mercy?

## LOOK OUTWARD

The story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer is an inspiring one. He developed an entire community to impact Germany for Christ in the midst of the World War 2.

- How could freedom and mercy inspire the community around you?
- What are some of the needs around you that you know you can influence through faith in action?

We can sometimes miss the people along the way when we are worried about the law of following and not how Jesus led His disciples to follow.

- How is God turning your focus away from your favourites and more to the people sneaking into the back spaces of your life?
- How can you help people in your life discover the freedom and mercy of Jesus?

## SO WHAT?

*Grace is God acting in your life to accomplish what you cannot accomplish on your way. – Dallas Willard*

## BREATH PRAYER

Holy Spirit, propel me into freedom and mercy.

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

*Examen*

Take 5 minutes at the end of your day to.

*Recall*

Think through key events and emotions of your day and ask God to reveal His presence and activity

*Rejoice*

Gratefully recall moments of joy in your day. Thank God for His presence and for any blessings that come to mind.

THE BOOK OF

# JAMES

## *Repent*

Wherever you see words, thoughts, desires, actions or attitudes that don't look like Jesus, confess. Receive His grace and ask for the spirit to empower.

## *Renew*

With hope, consider tomorrow. Ask God for wisdom, strength, and boldness to walk in the way of Jesus.

## **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 sends His Spirit to propel us into life with Him
- 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 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