

Transition:

James reminds us that as believers and followers of Christ, our encounter with Christ has a transforming and life changing effect on us. He provides us with practical advice for being a faithful follower of Jesus. The many challenging circumstances for Jewish Christians in the Roman Empire, as well as those faced by us today requires ongoing consideration of the values that guides us how to respond. James emphasizes the values of those who follow Jesus as humility, (practicing humility not pride), seeking and demonstrating heavenly wisdom verses earthly wisdom, and ongoing submission to God, His word, and daily demonstration of His values as we endure the daily challenges in life. It also reminds us to assess our attitudes, behaviors, and values, and to adjust and transform as needed.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. How well do you demonstrate the values that James recommend?
2. What did James mean when he wrote in v.6 "God resist the proud, But gives grace to the humble"?
3. How will you through God's grace strive to pursue meekness before God & people?

Fundamental:

Submission is a central theme in the Bible, woven into narratives and teachings that guide believers toward spiritual growth and alignment with God's will. The concept of submission is not rooted in weakness or subjugation but rather in humility, obedience, and an embrace of divine wisdom. James 4:7 – "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of world but Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

1. In what ways do we submit to and draw closer to God? V. 7-10
2. In what ways have you observed God lifting you up as you humble yourself?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Read James Chapter 5 to prepare for next week.
2. Guard Your Tongue. Be intentional about using your words to uplift, encourage, and honor others.
3. Go serve together at a local food pantry or someone in your community

Discipleship Tip:

Cultivate a habit of prayer and discernment to align your actions with God's guidance and Biblical principles. Be slow to speak and quick to listen.

Prayer:

Prayerfully ask God to show you ways in which you can be more of a doer of His word and not just a reader.