

# Journey CHURCH

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## Session 1 Leader Guide

### Leader Notes:

He knows the hairs on your head. He knows all the days that He has for you. In fact, He put you together and put those days together so that you might walk in the fullness of joy, bringing the greatest amount of glory to God.

The sovereign King of glory is not a taker. He is a giver.

God leads us into the fullest possible life by revealing to us who He is.

God is so about God that the Bible itself, first and foremost, is about God. It's not about you.

God makes known to us the path of life.

The "Thou-shalt-nots" are not God trying to take but God trying to lead you to something that's going to bring you more joy than your idea of what's going to bring you joy.

Salvation and obedience are the two ways God draws us into the fullest life possible.

James was written to encourage Christians in an increasingly hostile environment to live lives dependent on God and not give themselves over to the presumed comforts of the world.

### THREE MAJOR THEMES OF JAMES

1. Trials, suffering, and difficulty can be expected. They do not surprise the heart of God.
2. This is about progress, not perfection.
3. Riches and comfort will not satisfy the soul.

### Discussion:

1. How did James describe himself as he opened his letter in James 1:1?
2. Why is it significant that James, as a Jew, mentioned both God and Jesus?

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3. What connotations does the word servant have? What does this self-identification reveal about James? What does it suggest about the content of his letter? About his perspective on the Christian life?
4. Read John 10:10. How do the concepts of Jesus giving abundant life and of Christians obeying Him as Lord work together?
5. Do you think of God as being more concerned with either your obedience or your joy? How does your perspective on God affect your daily life?
6. Read Psalm 139:16. How does believing that God created you and knows everything about you affect your willingness to obey Him?
7. Matt highlighted three major themes that will run throughout our study of James:
  - Trials, suffering, and difficulty can be expected. They never surprise God.
  - God desires progress, not perfection, as we follow Jesus.
  - Riches and comfort will never satisfy the soul.Which common struggle in the Christian life most often threatens to steal, kill, and destroy your joy and satisfaction?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being spiritually dead and 10 being fully alive in joyful obedience, how would you rate your relationship with God? Explain your rating.
9. Progress, not perfection, is James's message on faith and works. Sanctification is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in your life that conforms you to the image of Jesus. You hear the Holy Spirit's voice as you read the pages of Scripture.

Our goal is to move closer to being fully alive in Christ by the end of our thirteen-session journey through the Book of James.

What are your hopes and expectations for studying the Book of James?

10. What remaining questions or comments do you have about this session's video teaching or discussion? What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?