

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

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Session 3 Leader Guide

Leader Notes:

God has decided to redeem and reconcile all things to Himself.

The church is the model home of the community that will one day be in heaven.

James wants their vision of their identity and their destiny to transform their character and their present circumstances.

Moral instruction without a captivating vision of beauty will only produce whitewashed tombs and rebels. Beauty transforms.

Take off all manner of filthiness and wickedness and receive, put on, welcome, absorb, submit yourself to, meekly humble yourself and receive the word of God.

This is the message of Christianity: that left to ourselves, we can't and don't please God. But God has made a way for us to bring Him pleasure and to be accepted by God, and that's through what Jesus Christ has done.

The one who merely hears the word and has a lifestyle that is characteristically against doing what he hears has not truly received the gospel.

They're satisfied in the church with the buds of hearing without the fruits of obedience.

Discussion:

Many scholars have called the Book of James a commentary on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They mean James uses similar language and images to describe a life of true faith. The Sermon on the Mount concludes with a famous parable about building a house.

1. Can someone summarize the parable comparing the two men who built one house on the sand and one house on the rock (see Matt. 7:24-27)?
2. What did the two men have in common? What distinguished the two men from each other?

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3. What was Jesus' point in this parable? How did He describe our only two options in life?
4. This is the heart of James's letter: hearing and doing, faith expressed in our works. How did James's earthly relationship with Jesus lend credibility and passion to his message of being a doer, not just a hearer, of truth?
5. Read James 1:22-25. What did James try to communicate with his image of a mirror?
6. In the video Beau said, "Moral instruction without a captivating vision of beauty will only produce whitewashed tombs and rebels." What did he mean? How does this statement help us think about religion and our relationship with God?
7. Why do we need both motivation and rules?
8. Why isn't "the law of liberty" (v. 25) a contradictory term? What's "the perfect law" (v. 25)? How does it give freedom?
9. In week 2 we discussed ways a right understanding of God's character shapes our lives. This week we'll see how a right understanding of our identity also affects our lives. What did James mean when he said we deceive ourselves (see. v. 22)?
10. James identified our language, relationships, and attitudes as visible reflections of what's in our hearts. Today's video focused primarily on controlling our tongues. Read James 1:26-27. How well does your speech reflect the truth of who you are in Christ?
11. When are you most prone to lose control of your tongue?
12. What does losing control of our tongues suggest about where we're looking for our identity in that moment? How do we see ourselves in that moment?
13. What can we do this week to help one another live out the truth of the gospel-the perfect law of freedom? When and where do you need reminders of who God is and who you are in Christ?
14. What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion? What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?