

Leader Guide Session 13

Leader Notes:

Throughout the Book of James, we see the call to progress, not perfection.

Conviction should always be sweet for the believer in Christ because it's an invitation to surrender ourselves to what God is doing in our hearts.

You will never stop confessing and repenting.

We all wander. That wandering is dangerous. Therefore, we all woo, and there is much to rejoice in as we are used by God to woo others.

The word wander refers to any deviation from the truth of faith, whether inadvertent or intentional, minor or major, to disbelieve or wander away.

WANDERING IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

1. Genuine believers in Christ who drift
2. Those who have never been a Christian at all

When we give ourselves over to sin, the heart hardens, and our reactions, attitudes, and behavior grow increasingly dark, angry, and aggressive.

The way to win a brother back, the way to woo, is to love.

Wooing a wanderer is slow, careful, and compassionate.

Engagement occurs within a relationship that's already present, in private, and gently.

The elders of the church promise to lovingly exercise discipline, when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined, and the health of the church as a whole.

Journey CHURCH

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Discussion:

- 1) Read James 5:19-20.
 - In your own words, what was James saying at the conclusion of his letter?
 - Why is this a fitting end to James's teaching on faith and works?
 - When have you wandered from true wisdom and godliness?
 - How did someone help you turn back to the truth?
- 2) What questions or comments do you have about today's video teaching?
- 3) What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?
- 4) In session 1 Matt highlighted three major themes that would 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.
 - What specific teachings from the Book of James can you recall about each of those three themes?
 - How would you summarize the primary message of James?
 - During the past thirteen weeks of this study, how have you responded to those three themes and to the idea that faith works?
- 5) As stated in session 1, our goal was to help you move closer to being fully alive in Christ by the end of this journey through the Book of James.
 - 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 current walk with Jesus? Explain your rating.
- 6) Remember that progress, not perfection, is James's message on faith and works. Sanctification is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in your life, conforming you to the image of Jesus.
 - How has this study of James changed the way you live out your faith?
- 7) What would you share with someone else about studying the Book of James?

Close in prayer.