

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 26, 2011

Passage: James 1:1

Memory Verse: James 1:22

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

Day 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read James 1:1. How does James describe himself in this verse? (b) List the “James” found in the New Testament (Mark 3:18—Mark 15:40; 16:1—Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13—Mark 1:19; 3:17; Acts 12:2—Mark 3:21; Acts 15:12-21). (c) Compare these verses: Acts 15:23 with James 1:1; and Acts 15:17 with James 2:7. What phrases are the same? What might this indicate to us about the author of the Book of James? (d) When you consider who the author is, what is surprising about the way he begins his letter? How might you have begun the letter? (e) Ask the Lord to give you a heart of humble service like that of James.

Day 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Mark 6:1-6. What was the attitude of the people who were closest to Jesus in His lifetime? (b) Read Mark 3:21; 6:3; and John 7:3-5. What does this tell us about James’ attitude toward Jesus during his ministry years? (c) When does James experience a change (1 Corinthians 15:3-7)? (d) Read James 2:18-20. How does James’ experience explain his concern in this passage? What concern might James have about those professing faith? (e) Spend time today praying for those who grow up in religious homes—that they might have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Day 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 again. What feelings do you think James had when he first saw the risen Lord? (b) Consider Thomas’ encounter with Jesus (John 20:24-29). How did Jesus treat his skepticism? How did Thomas respond? (c) Consider Peter’s encounter with Jesus after his denial (John 21:15-19). What impact did this encounter have on him? (d) What impact do you think that James’ encounter with Jesus had on him for the rest of his life? (e) How do these concerns show up in James’ letter in James 2:12-13 and 5:19-20? (f) Ask the Lord to give you a heart of compassion toward those who are skeptical. Pray for someone today who is hard to the Gospel.

Day 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) In today’s questions, how would you characterize a “mature man” spiritually according to the following passages? What does James 1:2-4 and 1:12 tell you about spiritual maturity? (b) What aspect is seen in James 1: 22-23? What would characterize spiritual maturity in James 1:26-27? (c) What aspect of maturity is mentioned in James 2:14-17? (d) How would you summarize the view of spiritual maturity in James 1 and 2? How do modern Christians view this aspect? (e) Ask the Lord to make your maturity evident by your deeds.

Day 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) What characteristic of maturity is seen in James 3:2 and 3:13? (b) What aspects of spiritual maturity are mentioned in James 4:4-5 and 4:8-10? What additional characteristic is seen in James 4:15? (c) According to James 5:7-12, how would a “spiritual man” respond to delays and suffering? What does he not do? (d) What aspects of maturity are mentioned in James 5:13-20? List at least 4 of them and discuss each one. (e) How would you summarize what it means to be spiritually mature based on what James writes in James 3-5? (f) Pray that the Lord would teach you dependence on Him for some difficulty that you are facing.

What have you learned about being a servant of the Lord?

DATE: June 26, 2011

Text: James 1:1

JAMES, A SERVANT OF GOD