

James Introduction
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James 1:1
August 30, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

When you find faith in Jesus, you need a guide

There are all sorts of things you can figure out on your own, but faith in Jesus is not one of them.

*Why do you think faith in Jesus is meant to be collaborative?

*Who has been a guide for you in your spiritual life?

James introduces himself as a servant of God and Jesus Christ

He is writing this letter guiding us in the ways of servanthood to Jesus.

Read and discuss James 1:1 (ESV)

!James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

*What does this very short verse tell us about James?

*Does it tell us anything about his qualifications to be a guide to believers?

*What does 'servant' mean in this context?

This letter James wrote was probably the first book written in the New Testament by Jesus's brother – a man who seemed unsupportive of his mission and ministry – before Jesus's death.

*Knowing some historical context, what can we assume about James when he makes the statement that he is the servant of God AND Jesus?

James is offering guidance to people who were new to following Jesus

He is writing to people who he believes already have faith.

*If you are a believer, what is the core reason that you have faith that Jesus is who he said he is?

*If you don't have faith yet, who is serving as a guide to you as you learn?

*How can we know what kind of person will be a helpful and qualified guide?

James was primarily speaking to Jewish believers in Jesus that were in dispersion

The letter focuses on how we should live in light of our faith and united believers with shared faith in Jesus.

*How can we relate to some of the things those believers were encountering?

*What positive things can come from dispersion and disruption of the church?

James is trying to guide these new believers to a concrete way of life and active faith

He doesn't want their faith to just be a collection of ideas and opinions; he wants their faith to change them.

Read and discuss this N.T. Wright quote:

“If your faith has no verbs, no imperatives, no discipline, no denial, no mercy and no struggle, then you are probably doing it wrong.”

*What are your reactions to this quote?

*When have you seen ‘faith’ look like a collection of facts or opinions?

*What would this kind of active faith Wright and James speak of look like in practice?

* ‘Are you ready for your faith in Jesus to change everything?’ What is scary about asking ourselves this question? What is exciting?

Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church

[James Reading Plan](#)

September 1 – 5

James 1:1-27

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Sunrise](#) by Liliias Trotter

Song for reflection [Faith’s Hymn](#) by Beautiful Chorus

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.