

James –
Jonathan Cleveland
James 5:7-20
November 15th, 2020

Reflection & Discussion Questions

James has given us some amazing guidance on the life of faith

*How have you been impacted by reading and learning from James over the past weeks?

James calls us to farm our hope

We can live with the end in mind.

Read and discuss James 5:7-12(ESV)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

*What do these verses say about God? About us?

*What comes from a mindset of hope and expectation? How is hope like farming?

*What things could you do now that will pay off over the next year(s)?

James calls us to take good care of one another

God’s people care for others physically and spiritually

Read and discuss James 5:13-20(ESV)

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sin

- *What are some of the things this passage calls us to?
- *How do we practically look after one another when we are struggling, sinning and wandering?
- *What is the importance of prayer in these situations?

Try not to wander off

Staying connected to other believers who love Jesus and have grace for you will pay off.

- *What are some of the reasons it's so hard to stay connected? Why is our tendency to wander off?
- *What connection is there between taking good care of others and our divine purpose?
- *What is God saying to you about cultivating hope or caretaking in your life?

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

[James Reading Plan](#)

November 15th – 21st

James 3:1 – 4:17

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [The Sower](#) by Vincent van Gogh

Song for reflection [Come Thou Fount](#) by Penny and Sparrow

*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.