

KEEPING IT REAL - JAMES SERIES INTRO

James 1:1

PAT NEMMERS

September 10, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free **Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Did you have any siblings when you were growing up? Did you get along? Why or why not? Talk about some special memories you have with siblings, cousins, or close friends as a child.
- What do you think it would have been like to be Jesus' sibling? Or to be Jesus' mother?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat set the context for this brand new series by reminding us that it's faith alone that saves, but faith that saves is never alone!**

INTRODUCTION

- Based on what you heard in the message, or from what you learned before, give a quick overview of James, the author of this book.
- The Book of James focuses on having a faith that *works*. Why might that priority on *activity* bother some people?

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

1. James introduces himself as a servant - literally, a slave (Read James 1:1)

- If you were writing a bio for yourself, or if you were speaking in front of a brand new group of people, how might you introduce yourself?
- Can you think of other words that New Testament writers use to introduce themselves?
- James was Jesus' half-brother (same mother, different fathers). If you were Jesus' sibling, how might you have introduced this letter? Why do you think James uses the wording that he does?

2. James wasn't always a servant of Jesus, but something changed him (See John 7:1-5; Mark 3:31-35; Mark 3:21)

- It seems as though James was initially critical of Jesus, but was eventually known as one of the pillars of the early church. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 (especially vs. 7) to find out what might have changed James' life.
- If you are a follower of Jesus, talk about what your life was like before you met Him. Then, tell your group about what happened when you met Jesus, and how your life is different now.
- If you don't have a testimony (a personal story about how Jesus saved you), are you ready to put your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior (Read John 7:6)?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group will know Jesus, grow in Him, show Him to others, and go on for Him!

