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REDEMPTION
CITY CHURCH

JAMES

FAITH / WORKS

Small Group Fall 2025

A disciple... **follows** Jesus, is **changed** by Jesus, and is **committed** to the mission of Jesus.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—at is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phones, responding to texts or emails, etc.

LISTEN

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of other or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but *when*. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. Pray
2. Read the passage 2-3 times (use different translations).
3. Write out simple outline of the passage.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT THE PASSAGE

1. What did you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in the passage?
2. What new thing did you learn in this passage?
 - a. What questions/challenges does this passage raise for you?
3. What verse/truth stuck out to you?
4. What did you learn about yourself (people) in this passage?
5. How has what you learned impacted you or can be applied in your life?

CHURCH: Week 1 – A Society of Suffering

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Describe a time in your life when the phrase “when it rains it, pours” applied?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

Written by James, the half-brother of Jesus, the book of James is a concise “how to” guide on helping disciples of Jesus grow in spiritual maturity. Like Jesus’ teachings, the book of James is a source of encouragement and comfort, as well as reproof. The book of James is extremely practical, but it also contains some of the most profound theological truths of the New Testament. It gives us sound insight for our daily walk with Jesus.

Tell the story: James 1:1-18 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing the Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it’s a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it’s a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
2. **THINKING:** What is a **THOUGHT** you may have about what you sensed?
3. **FEELING:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is a **FEELING** you have about what the Lord is speaking to you?
4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today’s group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week’s passage: James 1:18-27 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Church Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 2 – A People under the Word

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: When is the last time you took a leap of faith and found out you could fly?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James finishes Chapter 1 in the same way he began it. James challenges the followers of Jesus Christ to not just believe in Him, but to be changed by Him. As disciples of Jesus, we should look very different than those of this world. Every encounter with Jesus should leave us looking more and more like Him and less and less like the world. God has not called us to a religion or merely religious actions. Our faith in Him should transform our lives.

Tell the story: James 1:18-27 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing the Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
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4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today's group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week's passage: James 2:1-17 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.]

Church Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 3 – A People of Justice

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What would you like to re-experience because you did not appreciate it fully the first time?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

In chapter 2, James continues his address to the Christians of the early church. He chooses this time to speak about the treatment of others. James reminds us that we are all unique creations of God and all of us have fallen short of His glory. As His disciples, we have truly been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, out of that abiding relationship with the Lord, we are called to love others as Christ has first loved us.

Tell the story: James 2:1-17 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing the Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
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4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today's group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week's passage: James 2:18-26 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Church Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 4 – A Fellowship of Practice

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What have you done from a place of insecurity that has had long-lasting effects?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James continues Chapter 2 by jumping right into another familiar debate: faith and works. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have been profoundly changed by the gospel, and that should always compel us to act on the grace we have received. While we cannot earn our salvation, our salvation should lead us to perform good works. If your life does not bear this spiritual fruit, James says that your faith is dead.

Tell the story: James 2:18-26 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Experiencing The Word:

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
2. **THINKING:** What is a **THOUGHT** you may have about what you sensed?
3. **FEELING:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is a **FEELING** you have about what the Lord is speaking to you?
4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today's group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week's passage: James 3:1-18 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.]

Church Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 5 – A Community of Peace-Making

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What is one of the most meaningful or encouraging things someone has ever said to you?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James is not afraid to confront real life issues with disciples of Jesus. Chapter 3 of James identifies the importance of the tongue. He gives several examples of how difficult it is to tame the tongue and how the tongue can be used for both good and evil. He challenges believers to watch how they use such a powerful weapon because it can have such a harmful impact on our personal relationships.

Tell the story: James 3:1-18 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing The Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
2. **THINKING:** What is a **THOUGHT** you may have about what you sensed?
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4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today's group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week's passage: James 4:1-12 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Church

Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 6 – A Counter-Culture of Grace

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: When you were a kid, what was the most common thing you and your siblings or friends would fight over?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James is very blunt in telling us that we can only be successful and experience peace in our Christian walk-through humble submission to our Lord. We cheat on God when we chase our fleshly and selfish desires. We incorrectly think we will find fulfillment. Unfortunately, in that pursuit, we are only led further away from His will for our life. This submission to God is revealed in humbly approaching Him and drawing closer to Him in an abiding relationship.

Tell the story: James 4:1-12 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing The Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
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4. **I WANT:** Based off of what you have experienced thus far with the Lord what is something you want to do for the Lord or something you want the Lord to do for you.
5. **I WILL DO:** Based off of today's group experience what is something you want to do moving forward (*what is your action step.*) What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it relates to your life, marriage, relationships, family, etc....and where do you need to follow through and obey?

Assign next week's passage: James 4:13 – 5:6 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.]

Church Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 7 – A Community of Justice

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What have you learned about life from loss or death?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James pleads with Christians to understand how momentary our life on earth truly is. He reminds us of the importance of remaining kingdom focused. We make decisions, thinking we are in control, instead of humbly submitting to the plan God has for us. James also stresses, again, the importance of obedience. While we may be guilty of committing sin, we can also be guilty of the sin of omission by refusing to follow His will for our life.

Tell the story: James 4:13 – 5:6 [Have someone tell the story.]

Rebuild the story [Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.] **Read the story out loud** [Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.] **Experiencing The Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
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Assign next week's passage: James 5:7–20 [Ask someone to tell the story next week.] Church

Announcements

Close in prayer

CHURCH: Week 8 – A Fellowship of Concern

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Ice Breaker

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: What is something you had to wait a long time for? Was the wait worth it?

Cast Vision/Remind the small group of the ground rules

Share context of the story [Provide context by sharing the information below.]

James encourages us to be patient for the Lord's return. God is using our current trials and circumstances to strengthen us and make us more like Jesus. A lost world should take notice of our integrity and love for one another. We are also to be men and women of prayer, encouraging others in their faith. Just as Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, we are also called to bring others to faith in Him.

Tell the story: James 5:7-20 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]* **Read the story out loud** *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]* **Experiencing The Word:**

Spend some time together as a group “experiencing” the one who wrote the word. Using your “5 SENSES” what are you coming to learn about God in this passage and what does God want you to learn about you?

1. **SENSING:** In this passage what are you **SENSING**, maybe it's a certain verse in this scripture or maybe it's a word, but what can you... (SEE, TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL, HEAR)
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Church Announcements

Close in prayer