

COMMUNITY

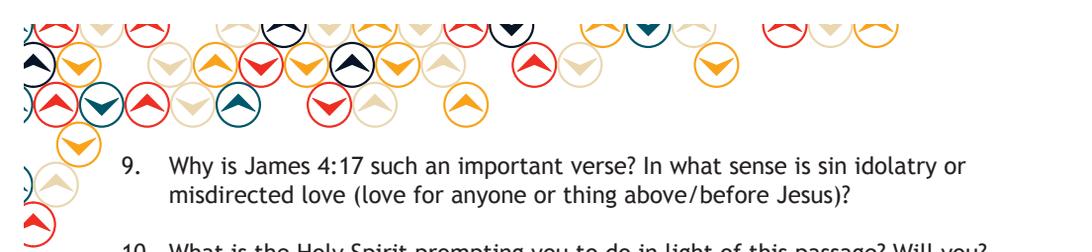
Sweet & Sour Share from your week something good or something hard.

Pray Pray for each other either as a large group or in smaller groups.

MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES

Message Discussion Questions

1. Read James 4:11-17. Discuss what stands out to you? Why does it stand out?
2. What is one regret that you have? How has that moment or season of regret impacted your life? How would you do that moment or season differently?
3. Finish this sentence: 'I am living for...' What's your life's purpose? Is what you think your life's purpose ACTUALLY what you consistently live for? Proof?
4. Why do you think James commands us to not speak evil against others (4:11)? Is this limited to only not speaking evil against other Christians or people in general (4:12)? Why/Why not? Why is speaking evil (judging) others so destructive and evil? Read Matt. 7:1-5; Rom. 14.
5. What is James speaking against in 4:13-16? Is James telling us not to plan? What is he condemning (4:16)? WHY (4:14 & 16)? Do you think a person has to actually say, 'If the Lord wills...' to obey or follow Jesus? Why might it be helpful to say it? Why might it not be helpful?
6. In the context of James 4, James is speaking to those who have worldly resources and are tempted to live for worldly 'stuff'. Why is it so easy to slip into living for the gaining/acquiring of 'stuff'? Share from your own heart how you're doing in living for God's kingdom (Matt. 6:33) not worldly 'stuff'.
7. How does James describe our lives (4:14b)? Why is this significant? Imply? The fact every human life is just a 'mist', reminds us that our time living on this earth is short (compared to eternity and even to human history). Yet how we live in this 'mist' makes a difference for all eternity. See Matt. 6:19-24; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-11; 2 Tim. 4:6-8.
8. Think back to the moment when you personally were saved (repented of your sin & trusted Jesus alone to save you through His dying for your sins and rising again). How did Jesus change you during that time/season in your life? Was it similar to what Paul says in Phil. 1:21; 3:6-11? How did Jesus become your FIRST LOVE? What did that mean? Is it still true today? If not, why not?

- 
9. Why is James 4:17 such an important verse? In what sense is sin idolatry or misdirected love (love for anyone or thing above/before Jesus)?
 10. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do in light of this passage? Will you?

Growing in Godliness #6

GODLINESS TAKES INITIATIVE (effort) Read 1 Tim. 4:14-16; Matt. 25:14-30.
Growing in godliness doesn't 'just happen.' I must choose it & daily pursue it.
*What are some things Jesus did to pursue godliness? Why did He do them?

Growing in godliness happens as we exercise (not neglect or downplay) our spiritual gifts for the benefit of others. (1 Tim. 4:14)
*Share how you are using your spiritual gifts to help others for Jesus' glory.

Growing in godliness requires practice, concerted effort and commitment to it...
TO THE POINT others notice it. (1 Tim. 4:15)
*Who is noticing your progress in becoming godly in choices, actions & attitude?

Growing in godliness means we practice what we preach. What I believe (and tell others is true) must also be real in my daily life. (1 Tim. 4:16)
*How have you recently chosen to practice what you preach/believe?

To grow in godliness we must CHOOSE it... because we VALUE it... so we GIVE OUR ALL... in PRACTICING it. What underlined word do you need to work on? Why?

Discuss the importance of these four questions:

1. What's my motivation? Basically either devotion to God or serving self
2. Who's my power (to become more Christ-like)? Holy Spirit or my own self
3. Who's responsible for making changes? Do I see my personal responsibility?
4. Do I see progress, though there are ups & downs? Perseverance counts!

MISSIONAL LIVING

Pray/Care/Share Who, in your life, are you asking Jesus to save?

Neighboring What are you doing in your 'neighborhood' during this crisis?

Serving As a Life Group, who are you serving in Jesus' name?