

James - Living whole in a fractured world

Whole people overlook no one

James 1:27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are intended to use in discussion and application of the past week's sermon.

Listening

What part of the sermon was most helpful to you or challenged you to think and/or live differently? How will you apply this message to your life?

Engaging

James wants to talk about our faithfulness to God matched with actions of 'visiting' those in their affliction. Have people in your group read Ruth 1:6, 1 Samuel 2:21, Psalm 65:9, Jeremiah 27:22, Luke 7:16 (among others). What do you think this idea of 'visit' entails and how can it inform the care we're supposed to extend.

'Religion' without the things that James talks about in chapter one is considered worthless. As a group, recall the things we have covered so far throughout the series (or specifically in chapter one) that are critical to whole, authentic faith.

Applying

Have you had experience specifically serving or meeting the needs of orphans and/or widows? Discuss your experience or perhaps share opportunities you have been aware of in the past.

Orphans and widows are practical, specific examples of meeting the needs of the marginalized (so the people of God must strive to be the hands and feet of God to them). And even more than that, the heart of God behind this is a sensitivity that is not based on deservedness but on seeing people in need. Discuss where 'needs' are around you. How can you/we seek to meet them? What can we try?

Praying

In light of this message and discussion:

How can we pray for each other?
Where do you feel challenged or convicted?

What can we praise God for?
How can we pray for our church?

