

Life Group Notes

James and 1 John – Session 2



These notes have been put together to be used in Life Groups alongside the Sunday teaching at Wavertree. You can use all or a section of these notes and adapt them in a way to suit your group.

READ: James 2:14-26

In previous talks (e.g. 6th July 25) Steve has challenged the idea of the 'ticket to heaven gospel' - that Christ only died to get us into heaven.

DISCUSS:

- If we are saved by faith, not by works - why can't we just believe can't Jesus died for us but live however we want?
- In Matthew 15:8 Jesus talks about people who 'honour me with their lips but their hearts are far from me.' What does that mean?
- In Galatians 5:6 Paul says what counts is faith expressing itself in love - how does that support James's message?

READ: The slave trader John Newton wrote the famous song 'Amazing Grace' which reflects on God's saving power for each of use, despite our sin.

He famously said:

"I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I wish to be; I am not what I hope to be. But blessed be God, I am not what I used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

Newton reminds us we are not striving in our own strength towards self-improvement but instead cooperating with the transforming grace of God.

SHARE STORIES: How have people in your group learnt to cooperate with the power of the Holy Spirit to challenge and transform, rather than working from their own strength?

INDIVIDUAL EXERCISE: Get a piece of paper and put 3 headings -
God's teaching/values, God's Promises, God's Commands

Reflect - on how well your actions match what you say you believe. Think about how you treat those around you, how you spend your time, your priorities, goals and choices.

Under each heading **note down** - some areas where God has already changed you, and some things you are working on.

Identify - what are your barriers to trusting God more?

Share in 3s at the end

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.

GROUP WORK:

Read proverbs 3:5-6 one sentence at a time.

For each sentence discuss:

- what does that mean for us today?
- How can my actions reflect this teaching?

LISTEN: Close by listening to Amazing Grace by John Newton.

Remember we are saved by grace and invited into living a new, transformed life now, by the power of the Holy Spirit.