

“Family Matters Sunday” | Various Passages

Big Idea: *Pure religion is not defined, it's demonstrated. True faith shows itself through compassionate action that mirrors God's heart for the vulnerable.*

STARTING

- Who in your life has modeled genuine faith through simple acts of compassion?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “religion?” Has your view of it changed over time?

CONTINUING

- What's the difference in “worthless religion” and “pure religion?”
 - What does “visit” mean in this passage, and what kind of care does it imply?
- How does James's command connect to God's character throughout Scripture?
(*cf. Psalm 68:5; Isaiah 1:17; Deuteronomy 10:18; Matthew 25:34-40*)
 - Why might James choose orphans and widows to represent the vulnerable?
 - What do they reveal about the heart of God?
 - What does it mean that caring for the vulnerable “keeps oneself unstained from the world”?
- Where do you see a disconnect between what you say you believe about God and how you live it out?
 - What fears or assumptions sometimes keep you from stepping into hard or uncomfortable places?

DOING

- The sermon challenged us to meet a tangible need, model what Christ has done, and mobilize others to care for the vulnerable. Which of these feels most doable for you this week?
- “We are not all called to do the same thing, but we are all called to do something.” What might your “something” look like right now at home, in the church, or in the community?
- How might your group collectively reflect God's heart for the vulnerable in your area?
 - What's one next step you could take together?

PRAYING

- Pray for eyes to see those who are vulnerable or overlooked. Ask God to soften your heart and give courage to act with compassion. Pray for your church to model pure religion in tangible ways. Share any known needs within the group and praying specifically for those situations.