

Take Away – Love Family in Light of Eternity

Text: James 5: 13 - 16

Date: 12-18-22



With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. We learned in the sermon that the Apostle Paul used James' conversion and leadership in the church as a defense and proof that Jesus actually rose from the grave. Discuss how impactful it is that James, Jesus' earthly brother, came to believe that Jesus was, in fact, the Son of God.
2. How do we live in light of eternity with those closest to us...especially those who drive us absolutely crazy?
3. How can we live in light of eternity with those closest to us through each of the following seasons of life? Give examples of ways you can react when you and family members go through times of:
 - Suffering
 - Cheerfulness
 - Sickness
4. Take a moment to share, admit and apologize, and ask for forgiveness and help.
 - Who is it that you need to share what's truly on your heart with?
 - Who is it that you need to apologize to?
 - Who is it that you need to ask for help?
5. Take a moment to share something that you are rejoicing over.
6. Take a moment to pray. Pray especially for family members that you are in conflict with.
7. How can we rightly know when and how to get more directly involved with family members who are suffering, cheerful, or dealing with sickness?
8. Why is it that we may tend to avoid interacting with those that have "problems"? What are some ways to overcome this natural hesitancy and take action?

Small Group Leader – Answers

With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. We learned in the sermon that the Apostle Paul used James' conversion and leadership in the church as a defense and proof that Jesus actually rose from the grave. Discuss how impactful it is that James, Jesus' earthly brother, came to believe that Jesus was, in fact, the Son of God.
2. How do we live in light of eternity with those closest to us...especially those who drive us absolutely crazy?

We are called to care for our families first and foremost before anyone else. We know our family well and know what areas they need help with and what they are celebrating so we can be one of the most effective witnesses and servants of Jesus to them.

3. How can we live in light of eternity with those closest to us through each of the following seasons of life? Give examples of ways you can react when you and family members go through times of:

- Suffering
- Cheerfulness
- Sickness

Our culture immersed in individual responsibility says that when you are referring to family and friends, it is their responsibility to "fix" me, take care of me, and meet my needs. James flips this, and encourages God's family members (the body of Christ) in need, it is the individual's responsibility to be connected, to reach out.

Then James moves from the individual to the collective group (church body). If you're part of a community, don't keep others guessing. Share your suffering. Share your joy. The community (Jesus' Body) wants to walk through what you are going through. But our culture tells you to just keep it to yourself - that nobody wants to hear about your issues (both good and bad). Confess your sins to one another and forgive each other. This one is terrifying but what is so key and foundational about this is the forgiveness that is given and received.

4. Take a moment to share, admit and apologize, and ask for forgiveness and help.

- Who is it that you need to share what's truly on your heart with?
- Who is it that you need to apologize to?
- Who is it that you need to ask for help?

Answers are individual so give your small group members time to think and pray.

5. Take a moment to share something that you are rejoicing over.

Answers are individual so give your small group members time to think and pray.

6. Take a moment to pray. Pray especially for family members that you are in conflict with.

Answers are individual so give your small group members time to think and pray.

7. How can we rightly know when and how to get more directly involved with family members who are suffering, cheerful, or dealing with sickness?

Ask them how we can best support and encourage them in each area, don't wait to be asked – act! Saying, “let me know how I can help” can be a very easy “out” and generally leads to inaction. Think up something to do (maybe what you would like done) and do it!

8. Why is it that we may tend to avoid interacting with those that have “problems”? What are some ways to overcome this natural hesitancy and take action?