

weekly guide

james: a faith that works – week 5
pastor dre burgs



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

City Group Icebreaker: *Questions to Get You Talking*

- Has your pride ever gotten you in trouble? Can you tell us the story?

Key Scriptures: 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. **James 4:7-10**

Big Idea of the Message: Strife and struggles come from our pride and selfish actions.

Message Study: The Essential Inductive Questions

- Struggle and fighting among Christians is sin and comes from sin. What sort of sins does James say fueled the struggles and fights he references in vs.1-3?
- What does vs.2-3 teach you about prayer?
- What does vs.3 have to say about the common teaching known as the “health and wealth” or “prosperity” gospel?
- Given what is said in vs.4, would you say it is possible for a Christian to lose their salvation?
- God jealously longs for your faithfulness and love (Ex 20:5). Does God have any reason to be jealous of you or your attention? Is there anything you put before Him or trust more than Him?

Start Thinking. Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means.

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week’s message?
- James begins this chapter with a question. How would you answer it? He points us to our desires. Since we all have different desires, how should we handle them?
- Why does this have such potential to cause problems with the church?
- Clearly, selfishness is a huge problem among the Christians to whom James is writing. How big a problem would you say selfishness is among Christians in our country today? Explain.

Start Sharing. Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- Our sinful pride and the devil will work to create an independent "spirit" in us that drives us from God and ultimately leads to sin, pain, suffering, and hurt in our lives and relationships. What is the Scriptural process James lays for avoiding those struggles?
- In vv. 7-10 James commands believers to respond to the grace of God spoken of in v. 6. What are they? Consider how each of these commands can be lived out today.
- What is in the way of me obeying God’s word?
- How can we pray for you?

Start Praying. We don’t want to sin against you, Lord, but sometimes we do. When we stumble and fall and our hearts stray from you, your grace brings us back. We can return to you with humble and contrite hearts and know that you truly forgive us. We pray that any remnant of pride left in our hearts will be cleared out.

Application Point: Asking in faith and humility will always cure worldliness within us.

next moves

Connect To Culture

- What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?

Movement News

- **SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT:** God has given so generously to us. In response, let's give generously to God's work through this church movement. Text GIVE and the AMOUNT to **84321** (ex. GIVE 100). *Your tax-deductible gift helps us fulfill our mission, and move the ministry of Movement Church.*
- No matter where you come from, there's a group for you. Join or start an MTG and experience how the gospel can transform your life. A MTG is made up of two or three people, all of the same gender, who meet weekly for personal accountability for their spiritual growth and development. There are only two suggested qualification for starting or joining a MTG:
 1. A desperate need for Jesus (Luke 5:29-32).
 2. Faithfulness in the process itself (2 Tim. 2:2).

To join or start a (MTG), email info@movementchurch.tv

movement transformation groups

Movement Transformation Groups (MTG's) are a simple way to release the most essential elements of a vital spiritual walk to people who need Jesus to change their lives from the inside out. We want to see people experience life change, support one another through the challenges of life, as well as pray and care for one another. (MTG's) empower the common Christian to accomplish the uncommon work of reproducing spiritual disciples who can in turn reproduce others.

Only three tasks are to be accomplished in a (MTG):

- Sin is confessed in mutual accountability.
- Scripture is read repetitively in context and in community.
- Souls are prayed for strategically, specifically, and continuously

Join or start a (MTG), email info@movementchurch.tv

MTG Weekly Emphasis:

- Does it surprise you that God considers a Christian who claims to be a follower of Jesus Christ yet lives for worldly things and pleasures as a spiritual adulterer? Read the story about Paul's companion Demas: (Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:9-12). Consider Revelation 3:15-16.
- Is there someone in your life that you are being called to "plead" or "implore" with on Christ's behalf? Pray for eyes to be open to see who God may place in your path to be his ambassador and emissary to plead with them to be reconciled with God.
- Each of you in the group is to identify two or three whom you feel led to pray for their salvation. Pray for those you know that don't know Christ. Ask God to give you the words that help you lead them to Christ.

Please see the MovementChurch.tv App (discover tab) for MTG overview and gospel conversation question.