

weekly guide

james: a faith that works – week 1
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*

- Why do you agree or disagree with the statement, “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you.”

Key Scriptures: Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **James 1:2**

Big Idea of the Message: We can have joy in the midst of tribulation when we have a firm foundation of faith.

Message Study:

- How did God speak to you in the message? Was there anything you didn't understand?
- James 1:1-2 jumps right into the reality that Christians will face trials and temptations. From a worldly point of view it seems strange to consider it pure joy when you face the trials of life. Is joy an emotion you have ever experienced in the midst of a storm?
- What is God's response when you ask for wisdom? (1:5)
- What effect does doubt have on you when you pray? (1:6-8) What doubts have you struggled with concerning God and prayer?

Start Thinking.

- What trials (an unwanted and un-welcomed experience) have you gone through in recent months?
- Have you ever felt joy during the middle of a bad situation? Can you share about the experience?
- Why do you think it's so important for our faith to be tested?
- When do you find it hardest to pray?

Start Sharing.

- God is working in our lives, often through trials, to build our faith, character and integrity. How would you define perseverance?
- When you have undergone trials and difficulties, to whom do you typically turn to for help and encouragement?
- James brings up the importance of prayer (v. 6), indicating that God indeed responds favorably to those who make requests to him, but the emphasis is on faith. There is a necessary attitude on our part that James discusses—asking in faith with no doubting. Have you ever prayed a doubtful prayer? What was it that made you doubtful?
- How does it make you feel knowing James calls us “double-minded” when we doubt?

Start Praying. Lord, help reset our hearts and mind. We often have a “why me” mentality and fall into complaining when trials arise. Help us to consider it pure joy whenever we face any type of trial because we know that through it you will grow our faith as long as we lean into you and don't give up. Then we can look back and see all the awesome things you did to help us persevere. We will see how you can use our situation to encourage others. Praise your name for using even the most difficult time for your glory. In the One who walked this earth and suffered more than we can imagine bringing you glory – Amen!

Application Point: When troubles arise, changing our perspective can aide in the maturity process.

next moves

Connect To Culture

If you've accepted His gift and feel weak in your faith and don't know how to live it out, check yourself, are you drawing close to Jesus regularly through prayer, city groups, MTG's and worship...or are you spending most of your time in worldly things and thinking worldly thoughts? As we go through this study, take the time to read the passage...read more than just this passage, answer the questions, pray and sing to Him. He is there, and you will feel closer to Him and reap the rewards and blessings He wants you to have.

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:

Here are several Biblical reasons why a smaller unit of two or three is better than a larger group when it comes to making and multiplying disciples:

1. **Community** (Eccl. 4:9-12): Life change does not occur in a vacuum; it happens in relationship with others. From the beginning God has said that it is not good to be alone. We need each other for strength and support (Prov. 27:17).
2. **Accountability** (1Tim. 5:19): Few things would get done in life without some degree of accountability. The New Testament lists at least twenty-eight "one another" commands. There's no doubt we need one another to live the life Christ intends for us.
3. **Confidentiality** (Matt. 18:15-17): It is easier to maintain confidentiality in a group of only two or three rather than a larger group of ten or twelve. The Lord specifically designated that two or three is best for the confession of sin.
4. **Flexibility** (Matt. 18:20): It is much easier to coordinate the calendars of only two or three rather than a typical small group of fifteen. A MTG can meet anywhere!
5. **Reproducibility** (2 Tim. 2:2): It is easier to reproduce a smaller, simpler group than a larger and more complex entity. Perhaps that is why The Lord commanded us to make more disciples rather than cells groups or churches (Matt. 28:18-20). Transformed disciples in community are the base unit for the kingdom of God.

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