



THE BOOK OF JAMES

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week Two

SERMON RECAP

What if the life you're longing for isn't behind more knowledge, but beyond a simple "yes"? Matt Reagan explored James' piercing truth: we often live in the gap between hearing and doing, deceiving ourselves into feeling spiritually engaged without being spiritually formed. Using James' mirror analogy, Matt reveals how faith that's real will move—showing up in forgiveness, generosity, and care for others. The "work" isn't proving anything; it's responding to God's heart with a "Yes" that awakens joy through obedience.

ICE BREAKERS

Describe a time when you said, "Yes" to something on a menu that looks good, but after trying it you wish you had said, "No, thank you!" Conversely, tell a story about when you said, "Yes" to an invitation, proposal, dessert, etc. and you're so glad you did!

TAKE IT IN

What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?

TALK IT OVER

Matt taught that we can feel spiritually engaged without actually being spiritually formed. We can know what forgiveness, generosity, and obedience look like but still not move or change.

- **How did Matt explain that we can 'deceive ourselves' when we only listen to God's Word without doing what it says?**
- **Have you ever felt really good about a sermon or Bible study but realized later that nothing actually changed in your daily life? What would help you move from hearing to doing?**

Matt explained that we can see clearly what needs attention in our lives through God's Word, but then walk away and nothing changes - just like looking in a mirror and immediately forgetting what we saw.

- **Matt used the example of looking in a mirror and then forgetting what you look like (James 1:23-25). What does this tell us about the difference between hearing God's Word and actually doing what it says?**
- **Can you think of a time when you clearly understood what God was asking you to do but didn't follow through? What made it hard to take that next step?**

Matt distinguished that believing says 'I agree with Jesus' while following says 'I will align my life with His heart.' He emphasized that believing hears, but following responds.

- **What's the difference between 'believing' in Jesus and 'following' Jesus?**
- **In what areas of your life do you find yourself agreeing with Jesus but struggling to actually align your actions with what He teaches?**

The sermon listed practical examples like forgiving others, loving our neighbors, caring for people in need, making disciples, praying for others, and walking in humility as things we already know God cares about.

- **Matt said that most of us aren't stuck because we don't know what God wants - we're stuck because we haven't said yes. What are some things we already know are on God's heart?**
- **What has God already asked you to do that you haven't said yes to yet? What's holding you back from taking that step?**

The sermon taught that joy doesn't come from just knowing what Jesus said, but from actually living it out. Matt shared that when we say yes to God's prompting, it awakens something in us and we realize God sees, speaks, and wants to use us.

- **Matt mentioned that joy is found on the other side of saying yes to God. How does this connect to what Jesus said in John 15:11 about His joy being in us?**
- **Think about a time when you obeyed God in a difficult situation. How did it feel afterward, and what did you learn about God or yourself through that experience?**

LIVE IT OUT

In your group, discuss a time in the past when you felt the Holy Spirit move you to say “**Yes**” to something and you responded appropriately. What happened as a result? Also, discuss a time when you felt the Holy Spirit move you to say “**Yes**” but you didn’t respond. What happened as a result? Open up and talk about the power of obedience to God and what happens when we obey, even when we don’t want to obey.

PRAYER

As we conclude our session, let's take a moment to gather any prayer requests. We'll then ask God to help us apply what we've learned:

- To have courage to say "yes" to what He places on our hearts this week.
- For clarity in recognizing what He is asking us to do.
- To find joy in following His guidance and living out His word.
- To be a reflection of His love and action in our community.