

# Small Group Bible Study

## James Week 1

### Main Theme

James opens his letter by reminding us that following Jesus is not about comfort but commitment. Faith in Christ is free, but discipleship requires obedience, humility, and a willingness to let God's Word change us.

### Opening Prayer

God, as we open Your Word, give us hearts that are humble and open. Help us stand under Scripture, not over it, and give us courage to follow You even when it requires hard things. Amen.

### ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- What is something hard you have done in your life that ended up being worth it in the long run?

### SCRIPTURE STUDY

#### Read James 1:1-4

- What does James call himself, and why is that significant given his relationship to Jesus?
- Who is James writing to, and what might life have been like for these believers?
- What does James mean when he says trials of many kinds?
- How does James connect trials with growth and maturity?
- Why do you think James calls believers to joy instead of avoidance?

#### 2. Read John 7:1-5 and Mark 3:21

- How did Jesus' family view Him during His earthly ministry?
- What do these passages reveal about James' early beliefs about Jesus?
- Why is James' later confession of Jesus as Lord so powerful in light of these verses?
- What might cause someone to move from skepticism to surrender?

#### 2. Read Luke 9:23-26 and Luke 14:25-28

- What does Jesus say is required to be His disciple?
- Why does Jesus use strong language when talking about following Him?
- How do these passages reinforce the idea that discipleship has a cost?
- What does it mean to count the cost before following Jesus?

## **SERMON RECAP QUESTIONS**

- What part of James' background stood out to you the most?
- Why do you think James' letter is often uncomfortable for readers?
- What does the phrase salvation is free but discipleship has a cost mean to you?

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- Where might you be standing over Scripture instead of under it?
- What hard thing might God be inviting you to do in obedience this season?
- How can you practically approach this series with a posture of humility and openness?

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Jesus, thank You for calling us not just to believe but to follow. Give us strength to do hard things, wisdom to submit to Your Word, and trust that the freedom You offer is always worth the cost. Amen.