



*James's
Wisdom
for Job*

Cape Vineyard
COMMUNITY CHURCH



Part 1

ENDURANCE THROUGH TRIALS

James 5:19-20

19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

James 1:2-8

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Message notes:

James is the only New Testament write that directly references _____ by name.

The book of James has an overarching theme of _____ through trials.

Even when you don't understand what is happening, find a place to live in _____.

You need a deep sense that God is in _____.

Your trials have a purpose: they form _____ inside of you.

It's in the hard times that we need to cry out to God for _____.

James's God is a kind and _____ Father.

Part of the way that you _____ the devil is God's wisdom.

There's a blessing to _____.

“For when [demons] come, they approach us in a form corresponding to the state in which they discover us and adapt their delusions to the condition of mind, in which they find us. If, therefore, they find us timid, and confused, they at once attack, like robbers, having found our minds unguarded. Whatever we are thinking about, they do - and more also. For if they find us faint hearted and cowardly, they greatly increase our terror by their delusions and threats. But if they see us, rejoicing, in the Lord, contemplating the bliss of the future, mindful of the Lord, considering that all things are in God’s hands, and that no evil spirit has any strength against the Christian, or any power at all over anyone- if they behold the soul fortified with these thoughts - they are baffled, and turned backwards.”

-St Anthony

Discussion Questions:

1. What have you already learned through our study in the book of Job on the weekends?
2. Why is it important for Christians to learn to be peacemakers?
3. Is it really possible to have joy even when you don’t know what God is doing? What has enabled you to have joy in difficult times?
4. How does knowing that God is in control affect the way that you go through trials?
5. What stood out to you from the quote of St Anthony?
6. Share of a time that you faced a challenge with your own wisdom. Looking back, what do you think God’s wisdom would have been for that situation?
7. Do you regularly seek out God’s wisdom for your friends and family? How has that changed your relationships?

Ministry Time Questions:

Is anyone going through a difficult season? Pray for God’s joy to lead them through this situation.

Part 2

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGEMENT

James 2:12-13

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

James 2:18-23

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." 19 Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-- and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

James 5:17

Elijah was a man just like us.

Message notes:

It _____ belongs to God.

You don't do anything to earn faith, but you better do something to _____ it.

If you know you need mercy, then you better learn to be a great _____ of mercy.

It's _____ to say "I know what I would do in your place"

Demons _____ that there is a God.

When God asks for you to give up something, that's when you know your _____ is real.

The evidence of our faith is in our living and _____.

Suffering doesn't make saints. It's how we _____ to suffering that matters.

Additional notes:

Part 2 discussion questions are on the next page.

Part 2

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGEMENT

Part 2 notes and verses are on the previous page.

Discussion Questions:

1. How has living in joy during difficult times changed your life this past week?
2. What is the difference between actions earning your faith versus actions evidencing your faith?
3. Why is it so difficult to be a giver of mercy?
4. Why is coming to someone with mercy better than coming with judgement?
5. What can we learn from the James 2 where he speaks about Abraham?
6. How have you responded to suffering in the past? How would you like to respond to suffering in the future?
7. How does it make you feel to hear James talk about these heroes of faith as being "just like us"?

Ministry Time Questions:

Is anyone struggling to extend mercy instead of judgement to family members?

Have you been dealing with difficult lifestyle choices in your life?

THE DANGERS OF THE TONGUE

James 1:26

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

James 3:1-2

1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

James 3:5-6

5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:9

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Part 3 notes and discussion questions are on the next page.

Part 3

THE DANGERS OF THE TONGUE

Part 3 verses are located on the previous page.

Message notes:

There is no human being that is perfect with their _____.

Beware when you are speaking to others. You will give an _____ for the things that you said.

We don't let people in group talk about others in _____ ways.

If you're a believer, your words _____.

Your mouth _____ for the atmosphere of your life.

The first attribute of true wisdom is _____.

_____ is an evidence of wisdom.

It's by the deeds of the _____ that you know if someone is wise.

Additional notes:

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you extend mercy instead of judgement this past week? Share about that moment.
2. How is the tongue the most dangerous part of your body?
3. What does it mean that we will give an account for things that we say? Is there still forgiveness from the Lord?
4. Why don't we allow people to talk negatively about others in small group?
5. How does your mouth set the tone for your life?
6. Why does wisdom lead to humility?
7. In what ways is peace an evidence of wisdom?
8. What other attributes of wisdom in verse 17 stood out to you? Why?

Ministry Time Questions:

Does anyone need to seek out forgiveness for words they have said in the past week?

Have you struggled with gossiping about others and now realize that you need to change your habits?

Part 4

STEPS TO RECEIVING FROM THE FATHER

James 4:1-4

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

James 4:6-8

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 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.

Message notes:

The enemy recognizes what's inside of you and _____ those desires.

God doesn't want _____ Christians.

You can say the right thing, but _____ by saying it in the wrong heart.

Step One: _____ yourself to God.

Step Two: _____ the devil.

_____ the name of Jesus

Step Three: Come _____ to the Father.

Job _____ his friendship with God.

James admonishes us to be _____ and wait for the Father.

Additional notes:

Part 4 discussion questions are on the next page.

Part 4

STEPS TO RECEIVING FROM THE FATHER

Part 4 notes and verses are on the previous page.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you change the way that you talk to others this past week? How did that affect your relationships?
2. What does it mean to be a two-souled Christian?
3. Why is surrendering to God daily so important?
4. What are things that help you resist the devil?
5. Which of the steps that James and Pastor Jamie laid out are most difficult to you? How can our group support you to grow in these areas?
6. How have you seen God be faithful in your life when you've taken these steps?

Ministry Time Questions:

Is anyone struggling to see God as near to you?

Does anyone feel like the enemy has been attacking you more consistently recently?

THE BLESSING OF ENDURANCE

James 5:7

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming.

James 5:10-20

10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. 19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Part 5 notes and discussion questions are on the next page.

Part 5

THE BLESSING OF ENDURANCE

Part 5 verses are located on the previous page.

Message notes:

Every test that you stand up in without quitting, you will receive a crown of _____.

If you don't _____, you'll never see the other end.

The idea here is that God has a giant, great _____.

The Kingdom of God _____ against darkness.

It's not the power of the one praying, it's the power of the One being _____.

Through your sufferings you've been trained so that now you can help others _____ to God.

You can't restore people without _____.

Additional notes:

Discussion Questions:

1. How did taking the steps from last week impact your connection to the Father?
2. Why does following the Father require patience?
3. Why do some of us have to wait until eternity to see the fullness of all the promises of God?
4. Share of a time that you have seen God provide blessing in your life after you endured through hardship.
5. How can we as Christians push back against darkness?
6. How have your sufferings “trained you” so that you can help others?

Ministry Time Questions:

Pray for those who have loved ones who have wandered away from their relationships with God.

Group Videos Answer Key

Part One:

Job
endurance
joy
control
character
wisdom
gracious
resist
persevering

Part Two:

all
evidence
giver
arrogance
know
faith
lifestyle
respond

Part Three:

tongue
account
negative
matter
sets the tone
humillity
Peace
mouth

Part Four:

incites
two-souled
ruin it
Submit
Resist
Pray
near
missed
patient

Part Five:

blessing
endure
heart
pushes back
prayed to
come back
the cross