

Weekly Questions - Week One - James 1:1

Every week, the Life Group discussion questions will incorporate each of the following three kinds of questions. However, it is NOT necessary to ask them all or in order. Structure your questions in a manner that best meets the DNA of your group.

1. Getting To Know Me: These are history giving questions designed to surface answers that are self-revealing without being threatening. They should be safe, but informative.

1. James introduces himself as a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. How has your personal journey shaped your understanding of what it means to be a servant of God? Can you share any experiences or decisions in your life that have deepened your sense of calling or service to Him?
2. James was writing to a dispersed group of believers facing challenges. Can you think of a time when you felt scattered or like you were going through a difficult season? How did your faith sustain you, and what lessons from that time continue to influence the way you serve others today?

2. Into the Bible:

1. What does it mean to be a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (James 1:1)?

- Follow-up: How does Paul describe himself similarly in Romans 1:? How do these examples of servanthood challenge your understanding of Christian leadership and service?
- Related Scripture: Philippians 2:5-7 – Jesus Himself took on the nature of a servant.

2. James addresses his letter to "the twelve tribes dispersed abroad." What does this tell us about his audience and their situation?

- Follow-up: How does Peter address a similar audience in 1 Peter 1:1? How do these exiled, scattered believers compare to the church's challenges today in a world where faith is often marginalized or rejected?
- Related Scripture: Acts 8:1 – The early persecution that caused the scattering of the church.

3. James is known as a practical book of wisdom. How does introducing himself as a servant set the tone for the practical guidance he offers throughout the letter?

- Follow-up: Compare James' focus on practical living with the wisdom literature found in Proverbs 1:1-7. How is biblical wisdom linked to the posture of service?
- Related Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trusting in God's wisdom versus our own understanding.

4. James does not mention his familial connection to Jesus, although he is traditionally believed to be His brother. Why might James emphasize his role as a servant instead of highlighting this relationship?

- Follow-up: Reflect on how John the Baptist, another relative of Jesus, views his own role in John 3:30. What does this teach us about humility and how we view our relationship with Christ?
- Related Scripture: Mark 6:3 – The townspeople refer to Jesus as "the brother of James."

5. How can we apply the idea of being a "servant of God" in our modern context, especially in light of James' dispersed audience who likely faced trials and persecution?

- Follow-up: How does the apostle Paul encourage believers to persevere in challenging circumstances in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9? What practical steps can we take to live out our faith in difficult situations?
- Related Scripture: Romans 12:1 – The call to present our bodies as living sacrifices.

6. Everything about Jesus, all hinges on him having the perfect character of God. In Tim Keller's book *Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God* (originally titled *King's Cross*). Keller Quote: The moral grandeur, the quality of life, the words, the deeds, the wisdom, the consistency and character of Jesus Christ must have been unparalleled, for somebody to live with him from the time he was little and to say, "This is the Lord".

In what ways does the character of Jesus Christ stand out as unparalleled, and how should this impact the way we live our daily lives?

How did Jesus' character exemplify humility and servanthood, and how can we model this in our relationships with others?

3) Application:

1. James identifies himself as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. In what ways can we, as Christ's servants, reach out to our One Life who don't know Him? How does Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples challenge us to step outside our comfort zones and share the gospel with those around us?
2. James writes to the "twelve tribes dispersed abroad," likely addressing people in various regions. How can we share our faith with those in our own 'scattered' communities—whether at work, school, or in our neighborhoods? How does Acts 1:8 inspire us to be witnesses, starting in our local context and extending outward?