



LIVE IT!
GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 02

Faith Under Pressure Behind the Curtain

*Live It Guides are not just a "study" we do to fill our heads with information about God. Possessing information doesn't make us disciples. It's what we do with it that counts! This looks like **listening, believing and living**. The purpose of this guide is to: (1) foster learning & listening with one another around God's Word, (2) allow God's Word to shape what we are believing and (3) encourage one another to live it out in the context of our daily lives. If you find your group not asking "believing" and "living" questions, please adjust your time to allow for this vital part of discipleship.*

Listening to God's Word...

Read James 1:1-11 three times.

What does verse 5 say about God? How is he being described? Try to come up with at least 5 descriptions.

Given the context of verses 5-8, why do you suppose James talks about wisdom and lacking wisdom?

When we ask God for wisdom during trials or when our faith is tested, does it seem impractical to you to ask without doubting? Why? What might this mean for us in our relationship with God?

In verses 9-11, why does James highlight that worldly wealth and riches will fade like a flower in the field? As a result of the persecution and trials they were going through, is there something that James' church realized about money?

Believing What It Says...

As we hear God speak through His Word, we must take what we are learning and consider how we see ourselves actually living our lives. Many times, we may say we believe something but in fact find that a different belief is influencing our actions. This provides an opportunity to repent and believe the Gospel.

Look back at the list you made describing God in verse 5. Is there a description on your list that you believe more than another? Why do you think that is? What adjustments do you need to make in your belief about who God is?

Do you believe that when your faith is tested through trials, you need wisdom that does not come from you, or do you sometimes believe that you can figure things out on your own?

Do you believe that wealth and riches are not a viable back-up plan for you when trials and testing of your faith come? Why? Why not?

Living it out...

Let's put what we are hearing from God's Word into practice...this week! We long to be a people who live an active faith, not only hearing from God, but also responding in obedience to Him!

Take the list you made from verse 5 and spend some time in prayer, thanking God for who he is. Ask him to transform your view of Him and live in view of that.

What will it look like at work, school, and your marriage and family to live in view of who God is from verse 5?

How will you deal with your doubts when you pray? Either you will press into God with them and acknowledge them or you will walk away from Him and hide them. What is the challenge with the former?

How will you tangibly demonstrate that you will not rely on human wisdom and/or financial security to get you through hardships?

Notes...

Record what you hear God saying through His Word and some tangible ways you are desiring to live it out in the next week...