



LIVE IT!  
GROUP GUIDE

**WEEK 05**

# Faith Under Pressure Trials Meet Relationships

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 **learning, 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.

## Learning from God’s Word...

**Read James 1:26-2:13 three times together as a group. Before you do, have one group member pray, asking God to speak to you and your group members from this text.**

*When James uses the word “religion” (v26-27) he is not using it to describe works to earn a relationship with God. Instead, he is using it to emphasize the importance of what faith in God really starts to (and should) look like through the life of someone who has genuine faith in Jesus.*

*What does James say about controlling our speech, the use of our words, as it relates to having faith in Jesus? What should it look like instead?*

*Suppose you were to walk into the church community to whom James is writing. What do you think you would see? Would you come back? Why ( see 2:1-4)?*

*What do verses 5-7 tell us about the nature and character of God? Why do you suppose James brings God up in this context?*

*What is the driving command in verse 12? And, how would you describe the meaning of the gospel in verse 13?*

## 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.*

**Do you really believe God does choose people (including you) based on income, appearance, or popularity?**

**Do you believe that being selective in who you love (showing partiality) is breaking God’s law just like other more “overt” sins (see 2:8-11)?**

**Do you believe God’s grace covers your sin, that His mercy toward you through Jesus Christ triumphs over His judgement?**

## 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!*

**Relying on the Holy Spirit, what are you going to do to change how you speak or act to better reflect the meaning of the gospel in your relationships — showing mercy, to all people, not judgement, not being selective in whom you love?**

**Ask God to give you new desires to make this more of a reality in your relationships with all people.**

## 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...*