



LIVE IT!
GROUP GUIDE

WEEK 09

Faith Under Pressure

Winning the War Within

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 4:1-12 three times as a group taking turns reading.

Is there a verse or phrase that caused you to pause and perhaps want to think more about and/or learn more about? If so, what was it? Why do you think that is?

What does James say about our desires as they relate to relationships and praying to God?

Given the context, what does James mean when he says “friendship with the world is enmity with God,” and “whoever wishes to be friends with the world makes himself an enemy of God?” Notice there is not “gray” or “middle ground” here.

How would you summarize in a single sentence what James says about winning the war within in verses 7-10?

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 find it hard to believe that relational problems often begin with you, with your own passions and desires that “war” within you? If so, explain why. If not, why not?

In what ways have you believed (or maybe currently believe) that friendship with the world is NOT to make yourself an enemy of God?

Do you believe that you have an active role to play in fighting the war within your own self? How is this belief seen in your outward life toward God and others?

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!

From this discussion, what might God be asking you (and us as a group together) to change in your (our) life? Would you be willing to have someone in our group ask you about how it’s going the next time we gather?

Spend some time together praying for the following: one another and the people of Anchor Point as a whole. That we would be disciples who win the war within our own selves. Pray also for the people who are far away from God in each of our lives, that they would be drawn by the Holy Spirit to Jesus, believe in Him, and be saved.

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...