

Faith Under Pressure Bumpy Living

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

James is writing to the twelve tribes of Israel who have been dispersed due to persecution. What are some of the trials you have faced in your life? How can you relate?

Read James 1:2

What does Joy mean? When have you experienced the kind of joy that comes from God?

Read James 1:3-4

We learn from James that perseverance is important. When has God given you the opportunity to see why perseverance is beneficial in your life? Do you feel like you have grown from the experience?

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 believe that God always has your best interest in mind when you are going through a trial? (Romans 8:28)

Do you believe that God is walking along side you when you experience pain and suffering? What are some of the reasons you may feel abandoned by God during a trial?

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!

The next time you are in a trial, what will be your response now that you have read the first four verses of James?

In light of the verses, how do you think this will affect the way that you minister to others who are in the middle of a trial? Pray that God would give you the wisdom of how to lovingly care for someone else in need.

It is often in the midst of a trial that God feels the farthest away. Remind yourself daily of the promises that come with having a relationship with the Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

Is there someone in your life you feel would benefit from hearing this message? Ask God for the opportunity to share with that person this week.

Notes...

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