

THE BOOK OF JAMES



Follow-up: Talk about any goals you made last week in small group regarding Bible reading. How did you do?

James is such a practical guy. Remember, for him you can only HEAR the Word of God if you are APPLYING it. He couldn't stand phonies.

Before we start this week's study, return to **James 1:27**. Remember that Jesus was also bugged by phonies and hypocrites, who showed off their "religion" but didn't really live it out. Flip quickly over to **Isaiah 29:13** to see what we're talking about.

What sort of "religion" does James challenge us to live out?

OK, so now we turn to **James 2:1-13**. This is practical stuff.

Let's translate it to the 21st century in the United States. Not too many folks are wearing gold rings and fine clothes at Santa Barbara Community Church. But how else could we fall prey to **FAVORITISM**? Do you see it happen in youth group? What should we do about it?

Remember what we studied a few weeks ago in **1:9-12**. In fact, read it again together. There are so many verses about the poor and how we need to treat them as followers of Jesus... It would be impossible to look them all up! Why does Jesus care so much about the poor? **Read Luke 4:17-21 and Proverbs 21:13.**

A paraphrase of **Luke 12:48** says, *To whom much has been given, much will be expected.* This is the unofficial "motto" of our youth ministry. We are so incredibly blessed!

It's time for your small group to *obey* the words of James, and the words of Jesus. In fact, in the original Greek, the word "obey" is better translated "hyper hear." In other words, to really hear the words of Jesus is to act on them – to OBEY them!



Take some time to come up with a service project to do together. Get serious about this - don't doodle around and just act religious! Get it on the calendar. And it needs to be something that's a challenge and sacrifice for the group – don't just show up at Rescue Mission chapel service 😊

LEADER'S GUIDE

It is important that they learn how to live out their faith.

OBJECT LESSON

So do something interesting to get their attention. Draw up a blank chart of a week – 7 columns, with days across the top, and hours of the day down the left side. Have them fill in how they spend their week.

First of all, they'll probably see how incredibly BUSY they are. Secondly, have them look at how much of what they do is simply for themselves. Is there anything in their typical week that is selfless?

Tell them we're going to learn about living out their faith today.

Start the study – hand out worksheets to each student. Remember, they each should bring their previous studies in a folder or binder, their Bible, and something to write with.

APPLICATION

This will obviously take some work on your part - but it's absolutely VITAL to their discipleship, and your relationship as a small group. Feel free to enlist parents to help you. There are several different opportunities available to you. Contact me if you need help.

OPTIONS – get them to own this process as best as possible:

- ✓ Contact Sarah Hughes at the Rescue Mission, and have your small group prepare, serve and clean up dinner one night - and eat with the people there as well.
- ✓ Contact Todd Ridenour about participating in the next work day at Harambee Center in Pasadena.
- ✓ Contact Kids Club leaders and find out if there are some needs with Kids Club. They always need help with dinner, and it would be amazing to have your students become tutors!
- ✓ Contact one of the elders, and find out if there's someone in church that needs some work around the house (elderly, disabled, financially stretched...). Last year, a small group cleaned, babysat and cooked for a woman with 3 children who had broken her ankle! Schedule an afternoon for your small group to SERVE together.