

White Rock Community Church

October 17, 2021 Sermon Bible Study Guide

Discipleship is more than learning Bible knowledge; it is thoughtfully applying Bible truths to our lives, and becoming equipped to introduce others to a personal, saving relationship with Jesus. Individually, or in a group we read, discuss and apply Bible passages to our lives so that we are equipped to care for others, pray and encourage others' spiritual growth. We learn to demonstrate patience, respect, love and humility as we encourage each other to serve God and others. Each of us needs to ensure safety and confidentiality.

Questions to start the study:

- What are you thankful for today?
- What difficulties or challenges have you had this past week?
 - Is there someone or something you are concerned about?
- Is there a way others could help you or the person/situation you are concerned about?
- How did it go as you worked to apply the Bible study and discussion from last week to your life?
- Who did you share your faith with last week or talk with about the Bible study?

Prayer: ACTS

- **Adore** the Triune God, praise God for his goodness and strength;
- **Confess** our sins, our needs, our challenges in maturing spiritually, in sharing our faith with others, in using our spiritual gifts to minister to others, in truly loving others as God loves them;
- express our **Thanksgiving** for God's goodness and guidance;
- pray in **Supplication** for needs, for people to connect with God in a personal, saving relationship, and for each of us to deepen our relationship with God and allow the Holy Spirit to work through our lives.

Bible Passage – James 1:12-18

Bible Reflections and Discussion

- Read or retell the passage in our own words.
- What do these verses teach us about God and others? What is God saying to me through the passage?

Inductive Bible Study: Observations, Interpretations, Application

1. James 1:12, 17-18

<p>James 1:12 describes how beneficial it is for us to persevere under trial and stand the test. We will be blessed and receive the crown of life. Trials help as grow in perseverance and become spiritually mature. What a transformation!</p> <p><i>Talk about experiences you have had with perseverance and with receiving God's love and blessings.</i></p>	<p>Pastor Steve discussed the crown of life mentioned in v 12 as life with God now and in heaven for eternity.</p> <p><i>Read and reflect on verses 12, 17-18. Describe the types of gifts mentioned in each verse.</i></p> <p><i>Gifts:</i></p> <p><i>v 12</i></p> <p><i>v 17</i></p> <p><i>v18</i></p> <p>God gives us life in abundance now and in eternal life. God wants to give us good gifts such as wisdom.</p>
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2. James 1:13-16

<p>Testing and temptations come around us every day. James 1:14-16 describes the cycle of temptation: desire, deception, disobedience, death.</p>	<p>Pastor Steve described it as Satan dangling bait in the form of temptation. Steve’s exhortations to us: Take our eyes off the bait. Keep our eyes on God.</p>
<p>God is with us through temptations, deceptions, disobedience. God can help each one of us to be responsible – <i>able to respond with God’s strength and the fruits of the Holy Spirit</i> – rather than react and be disobedient to God’s will for our lives. Galatians 5:22-25</p> <p>Reach out to God now about the distracting desires, deceptions, disobedience that are stumbling blocks for you. Call on God in your challenges! He is there and wants to help. How has God helped you in the past? How will you call on God to help you now?</p>	

3. God’s faithfulness!

<p>God anchors us now and in eternity. James 1:5, 17 Talk about your observations of God as a strong anchor.</p>

4. God is with me!

<p>Which spiritual rhythms help you determine what is right when you are facing temptation? <i>-know what the Bible says</i> <i>-spend time with God to listen to him and his will for you</i> <i>-understand that God is helping you mature through trials</i> <i>-be grateful for God’s faithfulness and care in your life</i> <i>-allow God to transform you</i></p>	<p>Check off all that are part of your life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -prayer -Bible study -meditation -Examen -spending time alone with God and listening to him -being sensitive to the Holy Spirit working in my life -observing how God is working in my life to bring me to spiritual maturity -confession -being with other Christians who urge me toward spiritual growth -loving and serving God and others
<p>What is your Vision for your spiritual life? My Vision is _____ What Intentions do you have for spiritual growth? My Intentions are _____ Which Actions will follow from my Intentions? My Actions will be _____</p>	

Core Truth Verse - What is the Core Truth verse from these passages?

What does God want me to do because of what I have learned today?

I will _____

Who will I share these spiritual truths with this week? _____

Benediction: When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. what can mortal man do to me? Psalms 56:3-4