

Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Welcome & Week One

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*



Welcome to Coffee Talk!

Coffee Talk at La Mirada Christian Church is a place where you will find hope and encouragement in the teaching and testimonies each week.

Have you ever felt like you were the only one going through a particular struggle? Like, if anyone around you ever knew what you were really going through, they'd be shocked?

Maybe you or a loved one has struggled with depression, anxiety, hopelessness. Perhaps you have gone through a difficult loss, a heartbreak, or diagnosis...whatever your challenge has been, we are here together to offer a haven of rest and a message of hope.

God uses difficult seasons to teach us patience and bring us into a more mature faith. But waiting on God, trusting in God, or hoping that "God will..." can often feel out of reach.

That's where Faith and Fellowship Women's Ministries comes in. We have a heart to come alongside women who want more...more hope, more faith, more truth. During the summer, we host the Coffee Talk series for women and by women who are willing to share honestly about where they've been and how they've found strength, peace, hope and more in following Jesus Christ.

Join us every Monday night at 6:30pm or Tuesday morning at 9:30am. You'll hear from women, like you, who are looking for real relationships and a deeper faith.

I look forward to connecting with you this summer!

In Christ,

Jennifer Richmond

Women's Pastor, La Mirada Christian Church

June – August 2011

Mondays 6:30pm or Tuesdays 9:30am

June

- 12/13 Jennifer Richmond “Unexpected Hope”
– *Special Kick-Off Dinner with the men \$5 for Tom’s Tailgate Tacos 6pm*
- 19/20* Bible study - “Our True Source of Hope”
- 20*/26 Rachel Barsha – “Finding Joy in God’s Plan”

July

- 3/4 Happy 4th of July! No Meetings
- 10/11 Cathy Wells (10th) – “Saved by Grace”
Monica Chavez (11th) - “My First Talk with God”
- 17/18 Bible study - “What Prayer Can Do”
- 24/25 Rebekah Cañamar – “Lost in Christ, Forever Found”
- 31 Bible study – “Walking in Faith”

August

- 1 Bible study - “Walking in Faith”
- 7/8 Teresa Mestas - “God’s Faithfulness”
- 14/15 Bible study - “Sharing Your Story”

**Rachel will be sharing on Tuesday, June 20 & Monday, June 26 due to VBS on the 27th*



*Would you like to support Women’s Ministries at LMCC?
You can make a donation at any time and mark it for “Women’s Ministries.”
Donations support not only ministry to the women of LMCC,
but to needy families and women in our community.*

Thank you! ♥

- Coffee Talk -

Faith and Fellowship Women's Ministries
at La Mirada Christian Church

Who we are...

...real women in every stage of life who have found that only in Jesus Christ can we have true hope.

What we do...

...encourage one another to seek God for wisdom and hope

...strengthen and support each other in all of life's challenges and blessing

...share our strengths and weaknesses so we can point others to the truth of God's Word and the blessing of a mature relationship with Him.

Why Coffee Talk?

To provide a haven of hope and encouragement, fun and friendship, and real answers based on the truths of God's Word.

What to expect...

Some yummy food and coffee too...casual and encouraging atmosphere...place to make friends and deepen friendships...Bible-based teaching...real and honest stories from women like you who have found lasting hope and peace in Jesus...faith-building Bible study



Coffee Talk meets every week - Mondays at 6:30pm or Tuesdays at 9:30am - from June 12-August 15. In between each Coffee Talk, you'll get a Bible study that will be written to encourage and strengthen you in your faith. Each week's Bible study will help you read the Bible, think about spiritual things, grow deeper in your faith, and most importantly - point you to God as the only true source of hope.

Missed a talk? Want to join the daily Bible study? Our summer book club?

It's all available at on our Dwelling Richly podcast:

1. Download "PodBean" app on your phone.
2. Search "Dwelling Richly" and follow the podcast to get updates.

You can also join Jennifer live on our Facebook page: "LMCC Women" or catch the replay on Facebook or the Dwelling Richly podcast:

Live Bible Study: 7am **weekdays** on Facebook starting June 14

You'll need a Bible & the Coffee Talk Summer Study

Live Book Club: 8am, **Saturdays** on Facebook starting June 24

You'll need: "Seasons of Waiting" by Betsy Childs Howard

June 24-August 19 Read the chapter and join the conversation.

August 19 Book Club social. 9am Location TBA

Discussion Questions

June 12/13, 2017

Let's get to know one another...

- What's your name and one of the following...
 - Favorite candy bar...Yum
 - Dream vacation...oooooh, fun!
 - Unusual skill you have!...unless you're a spy. Shhhhh.... 😊
- What would you do if you were invited for dinner and they served your least favorite food – not something you're allergic to or can't eat – but just something you reeeeeaaallllly, really hate?
- Tonight, Jennifer will be sharing her story entitled, "Unexpected Hope." When have you been surprised by something in your life?
- What's is the best advice you ever got about how to deal with disappointment?

“Unexpected Hope”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Unexpected Hope”



Jennifer has been with LMCC family since 2001 and active on staff since 2010. She's a published author of two and illustrator of six books and has produced two albums of original Scripture-based worship music. Since 1988, she has been an educator in the community teaching elementary ages and directing summer day camps for kids. She is active in educating in the homeschool community and is the director of Eureka Educational Ministries - a ministry and academic program for homeschool families.

As a pastor at LMCC, Jennifer's heart is that women would be firm in their Christian faith by having a passion for God's Word and in growing closer to the Lord. Jennifer speaks nationally at women's events, churches, and retreats bringing a message of hope and wellness – spiritually, physically, emotionally - and pointing women to Jesus as their Savior and only true hope. Jennifer's heart is to see women become committed and knowledgeable followers of Christ who are grounded in the Word of God and know why they believe.

Jennifer loves to cook, read, and go on road trips in search of great food! She and her husband Glen have been married since 1988 and are the proud parents of their grown son, Jonathan. They're enjoying this empty nest season and love their ministry at La Mirada.

- Notes -

-More Notes!-

Wow, you're a really good notetaker!

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week One – June 12-18

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

~ This Week's Focus ~

When our focus is on God and His truth, we can have true peace and direction in our lives.

Day One

1. **Read Psalm 139** – This Psalm was written by David, the 2nd king over Israel. He wrote over half of the Psalms in this book of the Bible and is regarded by Christians, Jews, and Muslims and others to be one of the greatest authors of all time. His words are honest and powerful, but more importantly, they are the inspired Words of God given to David and to all who read them. God had a heart for David and David, as the Bible says was “a man after God’s own heart.” In spite of this lofty title, David was a frail and failing human who lived a dynamic yet often tortured life. He committed murder and adultery. Suffered the loss of a newborn child, the rebellion and attempted murder of his own son, the tragic death of his best friend, and the bitter attacks of his one-time mentor and former king of Israel. We can learn a lot not only from his life but from the words he shared in his many writings.

2. What truths do you read about the nature of God? List the verses and the truth you find in each one:

3. Consider what type of life event or experience could have prompted David to write this Psalm. Share your thoughts here:

4. Write a verse or verses from this chapter that especially spoke to you:

Day Four

1. Write Psalm 139:13-18

2. What is David's understanding of when life and God's hand in his life begins? (v13-14)

Life begins _____

God's part in the forming of life:

3. Think about what Psalm 139:13-18 says about the beginning and ending of one's life. What does this say to you about God's plan for our lives?

4. Which of the verses in this passage might come to mind if someone told you they felt unloved, unvalued, insignificant? Why?

5. Do you think it's possible to ever fully grasp the nature of God? Why or why not?

From my heart to yours...

In 2004, two weeks before Christmas, I discovered that my husband had been emotionally and sexually unfaithful with a woman for nearly a year. I cannot bear to relive the moments of anguish I went through that evening when I found the truth. The pain was crushing like a physical weight on my soul, sapping the breath and life from me. I wept bitter broken tears. The ache was horrendous. I wouldn't wish it upon anyone. Over the next hours I screamed at God not in anger towards Him, but in desperation to release the betrayal my body was absorbing. I shuddered at the images that invaded my mind. I cringed at the months I had lived under the same roof with a man who had broken the most sacred of vows. I trembled under the physical and emotional shock in my body.

Alone at home, as the days went forward, I spent hours on my knees in prayer. Where do I go? Who will deliver me from this pain? Can I ever move on? What next? Where? Help me, Oh, God. I wanted to die. I wanted to vanish. I wanted the pain to end. Christmas day was coming and I had no desire to celebrate.

I sat and stared.

(What next?)

*The anger had seethed into
desperate hurt.*

The tree was already up and decorated, presents had already been wrapped and placed, holiday plans made and now. . . what? On Christmas Eve, after kissing my son goodnight, I went back downstairs and sat on the sofa next to the tree. Alone with my thoughts in a dark, empty home. The only lights on in the house were the white lights of the tree. I just sat and stared and thought. What next? The shocked and anger had seethed into desperate hurt. I wept and stared some more.

Looking at the tree, I saw the ornaments from each of our Christmases together. Our first Christmas as an engaged couple – skis from Mammoth – Our first Christmas as a married couple – a little house – Our first Christmas with a baby – a little baby in a manger...every ornament hanging on that tree represented a year of our life and I felt that I wanted to crush every one of them, throw them all in the fireplace and burn them up.

Thoughts of my sweet eight-year-old son sleeping upstairs and looking forward to Christmas morning kept me from doing something rash. Instead I clutched the sofa and screamed out a silent scream lifting my head and wailing to God, "I'm so afraid! I'm so hurt! What do you want me to do?" I heaved and hiccupped through the tears and when I could breathe again I heard a whisper in my heart, "Forgive him."

I wanted the pain and fear to end.

I wanted the one who had caused the pain to pay.

I wanted to be free and whole and done and healed...but in no way was I ready to forgive.

Too soon.

Too much pain.

But I had clearly asked God what to do. And He had clearly spoken.

Forgive.

Sister, I have no earthly explanation for what took place in my spirit in the next hours, but I do know this...I had presented my request to God, "What do I do?" and He had answered. When I released the tension in my shoulders. When I unclenched my fists from the edge of the sofa. When I breathed out and breathed in again, a tranquility came over me that defies understanding. These Words of God became more real to me in that moment than ever in my life, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in

everything by prayer...present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4)

*But I had clearly asked God
what to do. And He had
clearly spoken.
Forgive.*

My heart felt the protective guard of His peace. I could breathe. I didn't know how I could forgive, but I could breathe and I could trust God to show me how to forgive sometime eventually at least. And so, I called my husband and told him to come for Christmas morning. The season of healing and repair to our marriage that began that night continued on Christmas morning when I told Glen that I forgave him. He wept and we held strong for our young son and let him have a beautiful and memorable Christmas morning. The Gospel, brought by the angels means, "good news or good tidings." The angel that greeted the shepherds and announced the beautiful

truth of the birth of the promised Messiah said, "Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy..." This very Jesus spoke good tidings into my fearful, aching heart the night before. The fear and anguish in my heart gave way to healing and hope.

Do you see it? After reading and studying through Psalm 139 are you beginning to see the power of the truth of God? God's truth is the firm foundation I stood on during these times. God's truth, not the ache, not the pain, not the brokenness and sense of total loss...God knew me, loved me, had a plan for me...and all these truths were true for my husband as well.

It was this truth that saved me. This truth will save you too. Get to know the God of the Bible. Read it daily. Pray and continue to grow in your faith and understanding of God. It's the only reliable source of truth and hope you have.

*It was this truth that saved me.
This truth will save you too.*

You are loved and prayed for,

Jennifer Richmond



p.s. My heart is to connect with women and point them to the saving truth of Jesus. Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you would like to talk...or go out for lunch! I'd really enjoy that.

562.755.4964

Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Week Two

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

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Discussion Questions

June 19/20

Just for fun...

- If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
- What pets do you have or did you have growing up?

Think and share...

- One year from now, what habit or ability would you like to have mastered?
- Have you ever had to unlearn something like a bad habit, a way of thinking, a skill, etc? It could be a simple thing or something significant... Why did you and what prompted your desire to change?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study.

“Our True Source of Hope”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Our True Source of Hope”

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Two – June 19-25

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. Don't forget: You can join the study daily on our Facebook page or the podcast. www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen or www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes "Dwelling Richly"

~ This Week's Focus ~

The most important voice for you to hear and believe is God's. The most essential way to hear that begins by reading His Words for yourself.

Day One – Read Psalm 119:1-40

Psalm 119 is one of the most unique chapters in the Bible. That's clear enough reading it in English, but reading it in Hebrew is even more amazing. When you read it in Hebrew you see the beauty of the structure. Psalm 119 is divided into 22 sections: one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is composed of 8 verses and each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. It's not only beautifully written, it's got a purpose! It's special kind of poem that makes learning the word easy and you might have learned this way in school. This kind of poem is known as an acrostic. Each verse contains a special word pertaining to God's commandments, law, ordinances, word, judgments, statutes, precepts and decrees.

Over the next several days, as we study this Psalm, my heart is that you will come away with a renewed passion to be in God's Word and a bigger picture of who Jesus is.

1. From Psalm 119:1-40 Make a note of several verses you read that shows how King David* feels about God's word.

While studying, we want to see David as our inspiration and role model. Inspired by the Holy Spirit (Hebrew: the ruach chodesh), he wrote this Psalm over 3000 years ago and yet reading it today I feel that David could be sitting across from me sharing his heart. The Bible says that God called David a "man after His own heart." That is high praise and calls me to want to get to know David all the more through this Psalm.

**David is not named as the author. Some think it might have been the prophet Ezra. However, tradition and scholars tend to agree that David was, so for our study I'll be referring to King David as the author.*

2. David makes requests of God in verses 17-40. List several here:

3. What does this say about David's priorities and understanding of God's Word?

4. What did David do when he was discouraged? Write a verse from this selection that stands out to you. Consider committing it to memory.

Day Two – Read Psalm 119:41-72

5. David frequently writes that he is expecting God to keep His promise, remember His word, etc. Write one or more of those verses here:

6. What does Psalm 119:43 say about where David's hope is?

This is the verse where the word "hope" first appears, but as you can see from reading so far, much of the first 48 verses speak to our hearts with words that remind us of feeling hopeless. And where again and again does David find hope? God's Word. In fact, David so treasures God's Word that after 42 verses of recounting how deliberately he needs, wants, works for, memorizes, treasures, recounts, and obeys God's Word He asks God to not take – literally "snatch" – the "word of truth" from his mouth.

Does this strike you as odd? Why would he even be concerned that God do such a thing? Well, David's been through a lot – A LOT – and by "a lot" I mean serious sinful behavior.

7. Read Psalm 119:49-50

What a strong thought! From verse 49, write what David wants God to do and why. Then from verse 50 write from where David draws comfort:

|

Day Three – Read Psalm 119:13-104 & Psalm 51

8. The introduction in your Bible will give you a reminder about why David wrote Psalm 51. He had broken the word of God. He had sinned by coveting, murdering, lying, committing adultery. What does he say to God in verse 11?

|

What does he say in 51:15?

9. Before that in verse 11 he cried out for God NOT to cast him away or take His Holy Spirit, and later in Psalm 119:43 he pleads again, don't take this from me! What does this say about David's priorities? Write your thoughts here:

|

10. Write down the verses that show David's desperation for God's word:

|

Have you put your hope in God's judgments? Is what He has decided final enough for you? David had most definitely been on the receiving end of God's judgment. In fact, David and Bathsheba committed adultery, conceived a child, and part of God's judgment on their sin was that their child would die. Harsh and so painful! And yet, David can come before the Lord and say that he has "hope in your judgment." This hope is because of David's confidence in the righteousness of God. That is why we can hope in the Word of God. It is right. It is true. It is not going to fail us even when we fail Him.

Day Four – Read Psalm 119:105-136

11. In Psalm 119 we see at least FIVE verses where David repeats this phrase "I have put my hope in your word." Write Psalm 119:114:

12. David writes often of what he has done as well as what he wants God to do. List some of David's written expectations here:

13. On what basis do you think David makes requests of God? Are you willing to do the same when it comes to what you expect of God in your life? Explain:

14. Consider specific situations in your life right now that are troubling you. Using Psalm 119 as an example, how will you approach God with your desires in these areas?

Day Five – Read Psalm 119:137-176

15. Read Psalm 119:143-144 Think about a time of deep struggle, sadness, difficulty in your life. Rewrite these verses in your own words. Instead of “trouble and anguish” (ESV) name the specific life circumstance that you think of when you consider this verse. Instead of “your commandments” list a specific verse or verses from Psalm 119 that you have found delight in.

16. The phrase “according to” comes up frequently in these verses. List the “according to” phrases from today’s reading here:

17. What truths about God do these “according to’s” teach you?

18. How often does David praise God and for what reason? (119:164 ESV)

Based on what we’ve studied through Psalm 119, does this surprise you? Explain:

19. How will this Psalm change the way you worship? Pray? Prioritize your day? Offer counsel to a hurting friend?

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Weeks Three & Four

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

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It's *contagious!*

Discussion Questions

June 26

Just for fun...

- What's your favorite color...
 - to wear?
 - of food to eat?
 - to decorate your home/room in your home in?

Think and share...

- What do you think are ways we unconsciously or consciously keep from being honest and transparent with one another?
- What benefits are there when women get real with one another with what they're going through?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through Psalm 119.

“Finding Joy in God’s Plan”

with Rachel Barsha

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Finding Joy in God’s Plan (6/26)”

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Three ~ June 26-July 2 ~ James Overview and Chapter One

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. The next five weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study in community:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964 or www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

~ This Week's Focus ~

*Persevering through trial and truly living out the Word of God is possible
when we are in relationship with Christ.*

Day One – Read James

Today, as we kick-off our James study, let's read and meditate on the entire book. It's only 5 chapters and can be read in one sitting. Take notes as you read. The remaining days of our study will break down each chapter and several verses for a closer look. But today is a straight read-through. Just like you would read through someone's letter – start to finish – we'll read through this letter from James. You wouldn't get a letter in the mail and read a few sentences from the middle, then jump to the beginning, then the end again – right? We want to engage in Scripture with the same approach. Let's understand this book as a whole before we dig deeper.

1. Who wrote this book of the Bible? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the author here:

2. To whom was it written? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the audience here:

3. Read through the book of James and as you read take notes on the following page. Highlight key verses, write comments in the margin of your Bible, make a note of any questions you might have along the way. Highlight concepts, specific names, places, or people groups mentioned as well. We'll dig in together in our next day of study. For now, let's just read and grasp the tone and vision of James' letter as a whole.

- My Notes through James -

- Chapter One -

- Chapter Four -

- Chapter Two -

- Chapter Five -

- Chapter Three -

- More Notes -

Day Two – Read James chapter one.

1. How many imperative - command to do [this] - statements can you find in chapter one?
_____ (Hint: there are at least 12)
2. Highlight/Underline each mention of “trial”, “temptation”, “testing”, and “perseverance” in this chapter.
3. Highlight each imperative in your Bible and write two of them here either word for word or by paraphrasing it:

Example:

v. 2 *“Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds...” (word for word)*

v. 2 *“When all kinds of trials come my way, I need to be joyful!” (paraphrase)*

4. Of these command statements, which ones are pointing to the inner life - how we think and engage with ourselves and God - and which ones are pointing to the outer life – how we think and engage toward others? Categorize them here:

Toward Self / God

Toward Others

Day Three – Read James 1:1-8

There are four men named James in the New Testament. Which one wrote this letter? It is widely accepted by biblical scholars to be the half-brother of Jesus, also called “James the Just.” James had rejected Jesus as Messiah (John 7:5) until after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7) when Jesus appeared to him. Then in Acts and Galatians we see James active as a key leader in the growing church at Jerusalem. In Galatians 2:9 Paul refers to James as one of the pillars of the church along with Peter and John. As you read through James keep this background in mind. James, once a skeptic, perhaps a bitter half-brother, confused and maybe estranged in his relationship to Jesus before His resurrection, is now enthusiastically writing to teach and encourage others. Consider the huge shift in James’ heart and mind that must have taken place. Now he has written, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a letter that has been read for over 2000 years by millions and millions of people. It influenced the thinking of the early church and still influences you and me today. Thank God for changed hearts! Thank God for James and his faithful ministry.

1. According to James 1:2-4, what should our response be when we encounter “trials of various kinds?” _____

Why? (Use the exact words from Scripture and then paraphrase them as well.)

2. Look up James 1:4 in several versions (ESV, NIV, KJV, etc.). Write this verse in your own words:

3. James 1:5 flows right from the final phrase “lacking in nothing” of verse 4. James keys in on something important that we are likely to lack. What is it? _____

4. How do we go about getting “wisdom?” Bullet point the approach to gaining wisdom – what to do and what not to do - in trial here:

5. What does this remind you about the nature and desire of God?

6. How will this impact the way you face trials today and in the future?

Day Four – Read James 1:9-18

1. Generally speaking, do “lowly” people think of themselves in an exalted way? What about “the rich?” Do the rich generally think of themselves with humility? Why or why not?
|
2. Considering James’ upbringing as the half-brother of Jesus, the son of a carpenter, do you think he was considered among the “lowly” or the “rich?” Explain:
|
3. What perspective has he gained in terms of the things that matter in life because of his upbringing and life experiences? (Consider his early rejection of Jesus, his conversion, and his current influence as a leader in the new church.)
|
4. Circle/Highlight/Underline the words “trial” and “test” in verse 12 and connect them with “trials” and “testing” in verses 1 and 2.
5. Where does temptation NOT originate? _____ (James 1:13)
6. Where DOES temptation originate? (James 1:14-15) _____ (two words)
7. Outline the progression of temptation as described in James 1:14-15
|
_____ away and _____ by own _____
Then _____ when it has
_____ gives birth to
_____ and when it is fully grown brings forth
_____.
For deeper study read Genesis 2:15-3:16 and see how the actions of Adam, Eve, and Cain match this progression of temptation.
8. We bring forth temptation unless we do what? (Consider all of James 1:2-12)
|
9. What does God bring forth? (James 1:16-18)
|
10. What will you pray for today based on what you’ve learned or been reminded of in James chapter one?
|

Day Five – Read James 1:19-27

1. It's been said that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. According to this passage, what is that reason?
|
2. What are we to do when we receive the Word of God, and how are we to receive it? (James 1:19-21)
|
3. What is happening when we are "hearers only" and not "doers of the Word?" (James 1:22-24)
|
4. Read carefully James 1:25-27 List and explain further what a "doer of the word" does and what will happen as a result of actually doing what one has heard:
|
5. James 1:26 give a very strong caution about our "religion" (what we say we believe) being totally worthless. What does James warn us about?
|
6. Also, since you've read the entire book of James, you know that this issue is going to come up again. What does James say later in this book about the tongue? Write a key verse here:
|
For deeper study: Do a word study on the word "tongue" in the Bible. Consider especially verses from Proverbs. Write a verse that will be an encouragement to you in this area of keeping your tongue under control.
7. How will this look in your life TODAY? In what way can you step it up in regards to not just hearing, but DOING God's Word in your life? Be specific and consider calling a friend to join you in this.
|

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Four ~ July 3-9 ~ James Chapter Two

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. The next four weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964 or www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

~ This Week's Focus ~

Unless you're actually living out your faith by doing what God has commanded, your faith is dead.

Day One – Read James chapter two

1. Take note of familiar words and phrases that appear in this and in chapter one. Mark them (connecting each together) in your Bible and note them here as well:

2. Summarize the theme of James 2:1-13 in one sentence:

3. How does James 2:1-13 reveal the character of God in general and how He has shown Himself to you in particular?

4. Summarize the theme of James 2:14-26 in one sentence:

5. How does James 2:14-26 reveal the character and expectations of God?

6. In what way(s) can you be intentional in applying the teachings you have read in this chapter to your life today?

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Day Two – Read James 2:1-7

1. What command does James open with in 2:1? Write it here:
|
2. What problem in conduct is James addressing in 2:1-3?
|
3. What scenario does James describe in these verses to help the reader picture the problem? How might that apply to your life as a follower of Jesus today?
|
4. What point in verse 7 does James make to support his admonition? Read Acts 11:26 for background:
|
5. Consider James' nickname – "James the Just." How do you see this passage as a possible explanation for why he was so named?
|
6. What does this teach you not only about the heart of James, but about the heart of God and His will for the life of the true believer?
|

Day Three – Read James 2:8-13

1. Who is the audience of the book of James? _____
2. What is the "royal law?" Write it here:
|

3. Considering James' immediate Jewish audience (we're the extended audience as Gentiles) how familiar do you think they would have been with this "royal law?" Read Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:25-28 then explain:
|
4. What did Jesus say about who are His true disciples in John 8:31?
|
5. The concept of mercy is addressed specifically over 100 times in the Bible, and countless times by application. What does James say about mercy in 2:13?
|
6. What does God say about mercy through the prophet in Micah 6:8? Write the verse here:
|
7. Compare this with Jesus' words in Matthew 9:9-13 which is an encounter Jesus had with the rich leaders (Pharisees), a tax collector (considered to be an unworthy sinner), and those watching. What does this tell you about the heart of Jesus and by extension, where our hearts should be?
|

For further study, read Matthew 7:1-20 and compare the content and concepts Jesus taught with what James is teaching here.

Day Four – Read James 2:14-17

1. This passage is centered on three rhetorical questions. Write them here in your own words:
|
2. Describe a scenario when something like what James is describing in this hypothetical situation in 2:16 might actually take place today:
|

3. Is James saying that this kind of faith is the basis for salvation? Consider Titus 3:4-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 before writing your answer.

4. God's Word is clear: We **need to be saved** from our sins. We **can be saved** from our sins. How? Write the answers from each verse here:

Need to be saved - Romans 3:23

Can be saved - Romans 10:9

5. What is the evidence of someone who has been saved?

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 2:15

John 14:15

6. Are you sensing the balance of faith and works? Once someone is saved from their sins they are a follower of Christ – a Christian. It's not good deeds outweighing bad ones that leads to salvation, however, good deeds are the evidence of a saved life! Take a moment to illustrate this truth with words or by drawing it out. I'd love to read or see your thoughts on this. After you finish, why not send me a photo of your response? 562.755.4964 or Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

Day Five – Read James 2:18-26

1. James anticipates a response in 2:18-20 in the form of hypothetical statement that “someone” might give after reading the previous verses. What is this person’s basic argument?

For further study: Peter, who is also named as a “pillar” of the church like James, addresses this issue as well. Read 1 Peter 1:3-11.

2. What is James’ retort to this “someone” who is arguing that faith can be apart from works? (Hint: the final phrase of James 2:18) Complete the phrase here and highlight it in your Bible:

“I will _____ you my _____ by my _____.”

3. In 2:19 James goes on to affirm a central belief of the Jewish and Christian faith. In Jewish teaching, this affirmation is referred to as the “Shema.” Observant Jews recite this truth at least twice a day. Read and highlight in your Bible Deuteronomy 6:4 and write it here:

4. What is the demons’ response to this truth? _____ and _____
5. How does this statement about the demons affirm James’ key point (James 2:17)?

6. What is James’ question in verse 20?

7. How does James answer that question for the reader in verses 21-25?

8. How would you sum up the lesson from Abraham's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:8-19.

For further study on Abraham and this account, read Genesis chapter 22.

9. How would you sum up the lesson from Rahab's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:31.

For further study on Rahab and this account, read Joshua chapter 2.

As we conclude this week's study, my prayer is that we who consider ourselves true followers of Christ would grow in the depth of our faith and broaden the reach of our faith as it touches the lives of those around us.

The lesson from Abraham is clear: if we believe in God, we will do what He tells us to do.

The lesson from Rahab is also clear: if we believe in God, we will help His people, even at our own expense."

~ David Gazik

- Notes -

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