

HOME CHURCH SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - MARCH 22, 2020

JAMES 2:14-26



God's Growth and Service Opportunities in Trying Times

1. What impacted you most in today's message?

2. According to James 1:3-4, what are God's reasons behind trials that allow believers in Jesus to see them in a positive light? What does the Bible tell us about these trials? What is God trying to accomplish in us? See also Romans 5:3-6.

3. Read James 1:5. What are some things that we typically lack when we go through trials? Why do you think that is true? What is God's attitude when we ask him for wisdom to navigate the chaos of our trials?

Since the trials we face are under God's sovereign control, our first prayer should not be "Lord God get me out of this!" but "What do you want me to get out of this?"

4. Read James 3:13 and 17-18. Jesus embodied all these virtues of wisdom from heaven. List and discuss what these qualities would look like in your lives. Ask the Lord to help you live this so that family members and neighbors can see it during these difficult days. "Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom"

5. Complete this sentence, "One area I still need to work on where my actions lag behind the words of my mouth is _____."

We are not saved by works but by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone. It produces changed lives and good works that people can see. -Ephesians 2:8-10

6. Why is it important that we pray for one another and hold each other accountable to live and serve right, as well as profess Jesus? Take some time and pray for one another.

best serve each other in our family, neighborhood and city? How can we meet someone else's needs this week? See the following page for help in taking our eyes off ourselves.

7. What has God given us so we can meet other's needs even during our own trials? Read 2 Tim 1:7. How can we



THINKING OF OTHERS IN A CRISIS

Read this Prayer in the time of a Pandemic

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May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working
from home remember those who must
choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot
physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.
Amen.

God's Protection (Pray that God would
stop the virus through vaccines, or
miraculous intervention.)

God's Provision (Financial Institutions,
Job Shut Down, Hourly Wage Earners,
Fixed Income, Food Supply, Stores)

Those in Authority (Wisdom and Unity
for Police, Fire, Gov -Local, State,
National, International Leaders)

Medical Personnel (Protection over Rx,
Drs, Nurses, & Hospital Staff; Wisdom for
Researchers, etc.)

Those at Greatest Risk (Healing for the
Sick, Compromised Immune Systems,
Elderly, Homeless)

Our Schools (Wisdom for Leaders,
Teachers, Staff and Support Personnel;
Food for Kids, etc.)

The Church & Nonprofits (Members and
Elders, Pastors and Staff, Compassion
Care and Witness, etc.)

Family / Friends (They Feel Supported &
Loved, Enriching Family Time, Health,
Specific Needs and Opportunity for
Ministry and Witness, etc.)

Hearts of the People (They would turn to
Christ during this crisis; People would
come to faith in Christ, the nominal would
be awakened, and believers would go
deeper in their faith.)