
TALK IT OVER

A Faith That Knows the End of the Story

James: A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't – Part 24

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

What Will the Last Days be Like?

Jesus: "There will be great distress in the world at that time, unparalleled since the world began."

Matthew 24:21 (NJB)

How Should I Live to Prepare for His Coming?

1. Clean Out the Garbage in My Life

"Christ is our life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory! So put all evil things out of your life: sexual sinning, doing evil, letting evil thoughts control you, wanting things that are evil, and greed. This is really serving a false god." Colossians 3:4-5 (NCV)

Question 1

What are examples of "garbage" we need to clean out of our lives?

2. Stay Close to Christ!

"The Spirit that God gave to live in us wants us for himself alone... So give yourself completely to God. ... Draw close to God and He will draw close to you!" James 4:5-8

Question 2

What are some ways you stay close to Christ? Explain how you understand the phrase "draw close to God and He will draw close to you".

3. Use Trouble to Become Spiritually Strong

"You know that troubles test your faith and develop endurance. So let your endurance grow, for when it is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything!"

James 1:3-4

Question 3

Share a time when your faith grew deeper through a difficult situation. How might this help you endure future challenges?

4. Practice Loving Everyone

"You will always do the right thing if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures. It is the law that commands us to love everyone else as much as we love ourselves." James 2:8

Question 4

In your personal experience, who are the hardest people to love? What are some simple ways to show kindness and love?

5. Invest in the Bank of Heaven

"Tell people to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always ready to share with others whatever God has given them."

1 Timothy 6:18 (LB)

Question 5

Explain the difference in value and effects of each, between monetary wealth and a "wealth" of good works. What are some steps we can take today to share our blessings with those in need?

6. Use the Gifts God Gave Me to Reach Others!

"Remember, the reason the Lord is waiting is so that people have time to be saved."

2 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

Question 6

What gifts has God given you that could be used to serve others or lead them to Christ?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*