

## SVQ Guide Week 1

### James 1:1-21

#### Scripture, Video, Questions (SVQ)

##### Session 1 SVQ

- Ready James 1:1-12
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
  - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
  - **James had amazing credentials and yet he identifies himself as a servant of Christ. What three words would you use to describe yourself to someone?**  
**What pulls you from your identity in Christ?** (Tim Keller says, "The Bible says that our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus.")
  - **James 1:2 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds." What does it mean to "count it all joy"?** (Count (consider) it all joy - settled, right and good. Your happiness depends on circumstances, your joy is enduring through Christ in ALL circumstances. Don't let your feelings be your god. Lean on Jesus as he walks you through your trials and temptations.)
  - **How does the truth in James help us reframe the trials we're going through?** ("for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4). Trials can come from our own stupidity, sin, others sinning, the enemy or our broken world. Sometimes our good God allows or puts us through a hard season because nothing else would refine and strengthen us the same way. Allowing steadfastness to have its full effect means persevering through trials, patiently trusting in God's guidance, and allowing Him to develop our character and faith.)
  - **How does the Bible's definition of wisdom contrast with how our culture defines wisdom?**  
**What do you do when you lack wisdom?** (Wisdom isn't just knowledge or street smarts. Colossians 2:3 says all wisdom is in Jesus. Wisdom is in who you know. Wisdom is Christ in you being lived out in your life. Pray to Jesus for wisdom. See James 1:5.)
  - **What's the difference between asking God questions and doubting God?** (Legitimate questions come when you don't understand and want help from God. Doubts can become dangerous when they lead you to trust yourself more than Jesus. See James 1:6-8.)
  - **What sets you free from worrying about money or focusing on how much money you've earned?** (Your income doesn't equal your worth in the eyes of God. Your money, or lack of it, is temporary. Let the rich remember their humility and that it's all temporary, and let the poor find comfort in their exaltation through faith in Jesus Christ. If you're in Christ you are a co-heir to the kingdom and at some point, it's all yours. See James 1:9-11.)

##### Session 2 SVQ

- Read James 1:12-18
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
  - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.

- **Faith in Jesus produces faithfulness to Jesus.** Share a time you've seen this in your life or the life of someone you're close to.
- **What is the greatest hinderance to faithfulness in your life?** Share a time you've seen this in your life or the life of someone you're close to.
- **"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one." (James 1:13) How does this truth help you when you face temptation? How do you "remain steadfast under trial"?**
- **Our culture defines sin in many ways, and often quite differently than God does.**
  - **What is sin?** (Sin is our rebellion against God. Sin is a state of being. It is powerful force coded into our DNA. It is alive, it is aggressive, it is deceptive, and it is impossible to cure in and of our own efforts. It is a deep rejection of God's ultimate good and God's glorious rule. Sin is the non-supremacy of God who was made manifest in the person of Jesus Christ.)
  - **James 1:15 says, "...sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." Where in your life do you need to take your sin more seriously?** (It can be hard to be totally honest about your sin. Do you need to invite a close friend in your group to breakfast so you can talk with them about the sin you're struggling with?)

### Session 3 SVQ

- Read James 1:19-21
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
  - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
  - **What makes you angry, frustrated, or aggravated most of the time?**
  - **James 1:20 says, "for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."**
  - **What's the difference between sinful anger and righteous anger?** (When you get angry for no real cause, for your comfort, reputation, or your own ego, it's a sin. When you get angry for God over things that anger God, it's not a sin. Ephesians 4:26-27 says, "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." Tim Keller said, "Anger is love in motion to protect what you love most." What are you protecting or defending? Are you usually protecting something righteous or your ego?)
  - **What have you been angry about for so long that it has turned to bitterness?**
  - **What makes bitterness so dangerous for us as believers?** (When you carry anger for a long time, it can feel like it becomes a part of your identity and impacts your health and whole demeanor. Worst of all, it can hide and we won't even be able to recognize its destructive impact.)
  - **James 1:19 – Let every person be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger.**
    - **How would someone who knows you well (maybe your spouse if they're in group with you) say you show your anger most of the time?** (Some people show no anger, some people have outbursts, and others are slow to anger. Consider your own tendencies.)
    - **It's one thing to say we trust God with our anger - to cover it with His grace or confront it with His justice - but it's another thing to live that trust out. How would you think, feel, pray, and act differently if you were to trust God and surrender all your anger to Him?** (Remember you can't solve your anger problem. You allow Jesus to direct it. You need the living word to cut you. Go to the bible verses that speak to this. James 1:21, "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.")