



# AWAKEN TO FAITH

April 11 | Discussion Guide

(~90 minutes needed)

## **Begin with Scripture, silence + prayer (5-10 minutes)**

**Read Psalm 63** to begin your time together. *This week's topic is "Awaken to Faith", so the purpose of this reading is to internalize David's yearning and desire for God's presence in his life and to make it our own.*

When finished reading, spend three minutes together in prayerful silence. Know that God is in your midst. Where two or three are gathered, so too, is God there. This time and space is sacred. It's valuable. It's not a waste.

Finally, after a few moments of quiet centering, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together.

## **Read the James book overview (5 minutes)**

Read the "How to Use This Book" section in the James books found on **pages 4-5**. This will set the tone for what you can expect from this James book and from the sermon series as a whole.

To get the most out of this series, we're encouraging each person to do the daily devotions found in the James book, to engage with the sermon each week, and to come prepared for group time with thoughts, reflections, and prayerful considerations.

The goal is to meet God in His Word, to get the Scriptures to soak into the core of who we are, and then to metabolize the words of God into acts of love in whatever scenario we find ourselves.

## **Go over your life group covenants (5-10 minutes)**

One important step in accomplishing the above is making sure that everyone is on the same page regarding this life group. We always want to make sure that expectations are clear, that we are pursuing the same goals, and that we are each committed to showing up to this group physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Take some time to go over the life group covenant found in the James book on **pages 12-13**. Make sure you answer any questions that folks might have about what is said.

Have everyone sign the covenant. This is the tangible expression of their individual commitment to one another and to your meeting time.

### **Scripture Reading (~25-30 minutes)**

Take some time (about 25-30 minutes) to split your group into triads to read the entirety of James together and to talk about this letter from a 30,000 foot view. The actual reading should take you about 20 minutes. You might take turns having different people in the triads read a chapter at a time.

- What portion of James stood out to you the most as you read?
- How did this reading deepen or challenge your faith?

### **Transition back to one large group for Scripture and a debrief of the sermon (30-40 minutes)**

- First, what were some of the things that came up during your individual group discussions? Feel free to share with the large group what your smaller groups talked about.
- How would you describe the state of your faith in this season? Has it grown? Has it been stagnant? Has it diminished? By what means are you measuring your faith?
- How would you summarize Dan's message from this past weekend? What do you think God wanted you to walk away with from this message? *Have each person share at least one thing.*
- **Read James 1:1.** How does James describe himself here in relation to God and Jesus? Would you describe yourself in the same way? Why or why not?
- What do you think faith has to do with seeing your identity in relation to God and Jesus in the same way James does here in verse 1?
- Why do you think James views himself this way when earlier in his life he considered Jesus to potentially be a bit "out of his mind" (**Mark 3:21**)?
- How would you describe what faith is? In what ways do you think God is inviting you to awaken to a deepening of your faith over the course of this sermon series and over the course of the next two months?

### **Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes)**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.