



# AWAKEN TO BLESSING

May 2 | Discussion Guide

(~90 minutes needed)

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

**Read Psalm 19:14 slowly** to begin your time together. This week's topic is "Awaken to Blessing" so the purpose of this reading is to help us take the same perspective of the Psalmist who sees great importance in making his words pleasing to God. The hope is that we, too, might do the same!

After you finish reading the verse, have a specified person in the group pray for your time together – that your conversation, your words, etc. will be pleasing to God and uplifting for others.

## **Recap from last week as a large group (5 minutes)**

Spend some time talking about what resonated with you from your devotions this past week.

- What stood out to you?
- How did these devotions deepen your faith in God?
- How were you challenged to grow in maturity?

To get the most out of this series, we are 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.

**Split into smaller co-ed groups for Scripture and a debrief of the sermon (30-40 minutes).** *There are several questions here, pick some out that you think your group needs to talk through.*

- What resonated with you from this week's sermon? What challenged you?
- **Read James 3:1-12.** What specific parts of these verses challenge you most personally? Why?
- When was a time you used your words to build someone up? How often do you feel like you use your words to really bless others?

- What would it look like to use your words to bless the people in your life? Do you need to share encouragement with someone? Do you need to let someone know they are loved and valued? Do you need to tell someone you're proud of them?
- Who is someone that has spoken words of blessing into your life? What was said? What did those words mean to you?
- When have you been on the receiving end of words that are hurtful? What was that experience like?
- In this sermon, Dan mentioned three images that James uses for our tongues: (1) a bit that goes in a horse's mouth; (2) a rudder that steers a ship; and (3) a small spark that can cause a great fire. Which metaphor do you think relates most to you? Explain.
- Have each person take a verse from the following verses and read it to themselves and then share with the group what it says about the tongue and the power of our words. Once each person has shared, discuss the commitment to memorize one of those verses. *One of the ways we can change our words is by replacing them with God's!* Choose from the following: **Ephesians 5:3-4; Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 12:18; Proverbs 17:9; Proverbs 26:20; James 1:26.**

#### **Transition back to one large group for recap (5-10 minutes)**

- What were some of the things that came from your individual group discussions? Have each smaller group share something that stood out.

**Transition to smaller same-gender groups for accountability (10-20 minutes)** *Ask some of the questions below to hold one another accountable. Don't feel like you have to use this list like a checklist. If needed, feel free to stop, dive deeper, and pray over one another.*

- In what ways have your words over the past week contributed to tearing someone down or to gossip or were profane or were full of sexual innuendo?
- Who do you need to apologize to this week for your words?
- What words of confession do you need to speak right now because of your language this past week?
- What has prayer time been like for you this week?
- What has your time in Scripture been like this week?
- In what ways have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- How can we pray for you?

#### **Finish with intercessory prayer in your split groups (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.