

What About the Wanderer?

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | James 5:19–20

NOTE: Use these questions as a guide for group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

What is your favorite type of Christmas cookie?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Throughout his letter, James speaks about trials, endurance, and staying steadfast as he weaves in three major themes: suffering and trials, wisdom and words, and rich and poor. How does this range of topics help us understand why spiritual drifting is such a danger?

With the letter as a background, describe James' motivation for these final two verses.

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Matt 7:24-29; Matt 11:28-30; and John 14:6. Since Jesus is the crucified and the risen and the returning King, how is He our foundation and our life?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

What are the marks of saving faith? How do we continue in the Faith versus wandering?

What does it mean to speak immediately, truthfully, and persistently to a wanderer? Is there anyone in your life you need to speak to? How can we hold each other accountable? Pray for one another. And pray for any 'wanderers' you know.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Memorize as a family John 14:6. Teaching your kids the key doctrines helps them to grow firm in their faith. Some resources to use are New City Catechism for Kids (see below) and Mama Bear Apologetics. Also, articles at Crossway.org/articles/ or GotQuestions.org can help us know the Faith of our Profession. Encourage and pray for one another, for that Profession to be Practiced as our way of life, and for that Practice to be Persevering, even through all the 'trials of various kinds' (Jm 1:2). In all these things, know that Jesus is 'the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6).

FURTHER STUDY:

In addition to the resources above, The New City Catechism (newcitycatechism.com) builds on some of the older catechisms through books or apps, including multiple languages. Using a basic question and answer format, a catechism establishes the foundations of the Faith. It helps us build on the rock of God's Word rather than settling for the shifting sand from the world around us (see Matthew 7:24-27).



True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S SERMON:

The Birth of The King

Matthew 1:18-25 — December 13–14

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. What unique circumstances about Mary does the angel reveal?**
- 2. The betrothal period was more formal than our time of engagement. Betrothal was a legal pledge to be married. Breaking off the betrothal was considered divorce, even though marriage had not yet occurred. How is Joseph's righteousness demonstrated in this situation?**
- 3. How does the quote from Isaiah highlight what is unique about Jesus? Jesus' origin? Jesus' purpose?**
- 4. What in this text confuses you?**
- 5. What in this text compels you?**
- 6. Spend some time in prayer, thanking God that He is 'with us' in a unique way because of the birth of Jesus.**