LG Guide

11/22 - James (Apologetic Review)

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. Faith and Works (James 2:14–26)

Cultural question: "Doesn't James contradict Paul? Paul says we are justified by faith alone, yet James says faith without works is dead and that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Isn't this legalism or works-righteousness?"

2. Trials, Suffering, and God's Character (James 1:2–12)

Cultural question: "If God is good and all-powerful, why does James tell people to 'count it all joy' when they face trials? Doesn't suffering disprove a loving God, or at least make joy-in-suffering psychologically unhealthy?"

3. Favoritism, the Rich, and the Poor (James 2:1–13; 5:1–6)

Cultural question: "Isn't James just promoting class warfare or modern social-justice ideology when he condemns partiality toward the rich and warns the wealthy? Doesn't Christianity teach that everyone is equal before God, so economic differences shouldn't matter?"

4. The Tongue and Speech (James 3:1–12)

Cultural question: "In an age of social media, constant commentary, and 'speaking your truth,' isn't James's teaching about the tongue outdated and unrealistic? How can anyone be expected to control their words when platforms reward outrage, when processing emotions out loud is treated as healthy, and when staying silent can be seen as complicity or weakness?"

5. Worldliness, Friendship with the World, and Double-mindedness (James 4:1–10)

Cultural question: "James says friendship with the world is enmity with God and calls people 'adulterous.' Isn't this an anti-cultural, anti-engagement stance that makes Christians irrelevant or hostile to society?"

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal:* Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External:* Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group, generally? *[apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy]*
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.