



Tough Discipleship **JAMES 5:19&20** Message Reflection Guide

The death of Christ covered the sins of the people, and to those who have accepted Him, they have been given eternal life. As a believer, why would you not want a person to experience the same type of relationship with God that you are also experiencing? We should have a desire for believers and non-believers alike, that they would find that true joy that one has when they are in constant communion with the one, true God.

While the text consists of one, long sentence, James is quick to draw three important conclusions:

- 1) The penalty for sin is death
- 2) A multitude of sins is covered through reconciliation
- 3) Christians are responsible to care for one another through correction

This responsibility to care for one another is not a burden, but rather is an opportunity to pour into one another's lives and see God glorified. Simply put, James is calling on believers to love one another. That is to love one another through care for one's relationship with God. This is done through teaching and correcting one another. Although sometimes difficult and painful, it is a loving action if it is shrouded in love and prayer.

Conversation Starter What is care? How do you show care? Why is having personal concern for others important?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read James 5:19&20 and Matthew 18:11-14

Pastor Jason said: "Believers are responsible to help restore straying friends to the truth in a way that exemplifies love, humility and care." How do you know if a person wanders off from their faith? Can you detect the signs when people are disconnected or dissatisfied with your church? How do you help those who are struggling with their faith or with sin?

Why is it important to point people to the Gospel? How have you been negatively affected by legalism in the church?

Why is it important to "bring back a sinner" and speak "the truth in love" well? Have you had an experience where someone did this well as they showed care for you? What happened?

A church is a community of interconnecting people who are in Christ, whose call it is to encourage and mutually care for its people. What do you feel is your role to encourage and care for others?

Making It Real

How does this apply to you? What will you do about it? What can you model and teach to others? What does God want you to share with someone?