



October 4, 2020 James, the Brother of Jesus

Goal - every one of you to know God's BIG plan for your life right now

Text 303-647-3233

When you're clear on God's BIG plan, each moment will be reframed by faith

James

James, the brother of Jesus

John 7:5

... not even his brothers believed in him

James was a **skeptic**

1 Corinthians 15:7

Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

1st BIG Plan

God's BIG Plan for James was to become a follower of his big brother

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ

Maybe God's BIG plan for you right now is **to accept the gift of grace He is offering you.**

2nd BIG Plan

James just kept showing up with an open heart

Acts 1:14

All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

James just kept showing up with an open heart

Maybe God's BIG plan for you right now is just **keep showing up with an open heart.**

Acts 12:17

... "Tell these things to James and to the brothers."

3rd BIG Plan

God's BIG plan for James was to Let hardships increase your wisdom

James 1:2-5

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness (perseverance) have its full effect, that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Maybe God's BIG plan for you right now is to **Let hardships increase your wisdom.**

4th BIG Plan

God's BIG plan for James was to bring unity to the church

Acts 15:13,19

¹³ After they finished speaking, James replied, “Brothers, listen to me.

¹⁹ Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God

James 1:19-20

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

James 4:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Maybe God’s BIG plan for your life right now is to **emphasize Unity with other Christians.**

Share God’s big plan for your life with the church prayer team by texting **303-647-3233**. It can be anonymous, or you can share your name. We want to encourage you and walk with you in this journey.

Growth Group Questions

Sunday, October 4, 2020

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Acts 2:1-5, 42-47; James 1:2-5, 19-20; 3:14-15; 4:1

Prepare

Read Acts 2:1-5, 42-47; James 1:2-5, 19-20; 3:14-15; 4:1

Pray for God to reveal His big plan for your life right now during this 5-week series and to use you to help your G2 discover what God has for them.

Connect

1. Describe the differences in how you would react if your spouse asked you to take out the trash vs. if the Queen of England made the same request. Which is a bigger deal? Would you do it and how? Who would you tell and how often would you tell the story?

Discussion

1. What stuck with you most from the sermon on James?
2. How has God used simply showing up as part of His big plan for your life?
3. When you're tempted to hide from or try to escape hardship, what motivates you to keep showing up?

4. **Read James 1:2-5.** Describe some ways hardship has increased your wisdom and what it has taught you about God's character and purposes. How could it make a difference to others?
5. Part of God's big plan for James was bringing unity to the Church. How might God use you even now to make a difference at FBC or the Church as a whole and what is hindering you? **Read James 1:19-20; 3:14-15; 4:1** for examples.
6. Take time *before we pray* to text 303-647-3233 with God's insight into His big plan for your life or where you are in figuring it out. You don't have to share your name, but we'd love to put your response with a name!

Diving Deeper (Optional questions to go a little further)

1. **Read 1 Cor. 15:7, Acts 2:1-5, 42-47.** How do you think these experiences shaped James over time?
2. **Read Acts 7 and 8.** Compare and contrast the likely reactions of Paul and James to this event. How did it lead to God's big plan for each of them? **Read 1 Timothy 1:15 and Galatians 1:11-24.**
3. God's big plans and the process for getting there were very different for these men. How are you tempted to let comparing yourself to others hinder how God wants to use you?

Closing Prayer

1. Confess ways you are hindering unity within the church and ask God for humility.
2. Share hardships you are facing and ask God to help one another trust His plan in the midst of it.
3. Ask God to reveal His big plans for your life right now and for each person in your G2 and FBC.
4. Share and thank God for how He is already moving you to even seemingly small faith steps toward His big plans for your life right now.
5. Keep track of requests and celebrations from others in your G2 and pray for them.