

Small Group/Sermon Notes for James Part 7: Bring Them Back

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **James Part 7: Bring Them Back**
- **James 5:19-20.**
- Why might someone wander from the truth? Many reasons, here are four:
 - **Matthew 13:1-9, Matthew 13:18-23.**
 - 1) People wander because it is harder than they thought. **Matt 13:21**
 - “God has a wonderful plan for your life!” and periodically getting your teeth kicked in by various evils don't seem to mix.
 - How does **James 1:2-4** fit into this?
 - 2) People wander because they get distracted. **Matt 13:22**
 - This is probably the most distracted generation ever. If you agree, why?
 - That's the bad side of most opportunity ever.
 - 3) People wander into sin. **James 1:13-15**
 - 4) People who trust in people rather than trust in God get let down.
 - **Mark 12:28-31.**
 - Trust God and help people. Have you ever gotten that backwards?
- How do we bring them back? Many ways, here are the main two:
 - 1) Go get them. **Luke 15:1-7**
 - These are people who haven't heard or haven't understood.
 - Missions, evangelism, church planting, etc. GO!
 - 2) Wait for them to come home. **Luke 15:11-24**
 - These people know God but they have a bad attitude.
 - Don't chase these ones. The Father didn't. Why do you think he didn't?
 - What did the Father do? He made sure He was worth coming home to.
 - This is perhaps modern Christianities' greatest strategic error: chasing prodigals but not being worth coming home to.
 - Older brother syndrome. **Luke 15:25-32.**
 - Let's be worth coming home to. Church, family, and friends.
 - Healthy, Godly, full of grace and love, etc.
 - Last verse in James: **James 4:17.**
 - Whose responsibility is it to make the faith worth coming home to? ALL of the non-prodigious believers. Not just leaders.
 - Consumer Christians are just prodigals that are being pacified by churches. Be a servant of God instead.
- So, who can be brought back?
 - Answer: anyone who wants to.
 - Sometimes people are worried that they are too far gone.
 - If you are worried, then you are not too far gone!
 - The believer who has strayed can come back.
 - The person who has never really believed can come in!
- **John 3:16-17**
 - Jesus came to save the world.
 - The price you pay is believing in him. That doesn't mean “think Jesus is real” but trust Jesus and follow him.
 - If you want to do that, let's pray.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!