

# JAMES, OUR TOUR GUIDE

## Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, [www.vcfj.org](http://www.vcfj.org) and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

## JAMES THE TOUR GUIDE

Read *James 1:1-12*

In *James 1:1*

- How does James introduce himself?
- James can introduce himself many other ways. What are they?
- From all the books in the News Testament, what is the first book written?
- Who is James writing his letter to?
- Share the members of James' immediate family.
- What kind of relationship do you think James had with his older brother who never sinned?

Read *John 7:5 and Mark 3:21*

- What did James and the rest of the family believe about Jesus?

Read *1 Corinthians 15: 1-10 and Acts 1:14*

- James and his family were skeptics and non-believers.  
What changed James and his family?

- Have a discussion about James and his experience with the birth of the church and the persecution that followed.
- What was it like at that time and what part did James play?  
(refer to **Acts Chapter 6 to 8:2**)

Read **Acts 9:1-28 and Galatians 1:11-19**

Saul meets the Lord on the road to Damascus and eventually returns to Jerusalem to meet the leaders of the church.

- What is the historical importance of this?
- Who was one of the church leaders Paul met with?

Discuss how James and Paul, in their early life refuse to accept Jesus and the promised Messiah.

- How did they personally meet the Lord?
- How did their relationship develop?

Read **Acts 15:13-20**

- What was the importance of the Jerusalem council?
- Who presided over the council?
- What was discussed during that council?

Read **Acts 21:17-25**

- What do we learn about James and his character as a leader?
- What is the advice James had for Paul?
- What was the importance of James standing up for Paul and protecting him?