

EXCERPT FROM TEXT

¹⁹ *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,*
²⁰ *remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20, NIV).*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Over the course of your life, has there ever been something you were intensely interested in for a while, but over time your interest waned? What led to your change of heart?
- If we aren't careful, how can our pursuit of the Lord become just another interest in our lives? Have you ever felt this struggle? Share if you feel comfortable.

READ JAMES 5:19-20.

- James used the word “wander” to describe the process of distancing ourselves from faith. When you think about wandering, what is involved? What does this teach us about the process of wandering from our faith?
- Read Hebrews 2:1-4. Why should this idea of wandering be frightening to us? What word did the author of Hebrews use to describe this process? What is at stake?
- Who is being spoken about in both of these passages? Why are these verses not speaking about someone losing their salvation?
- James wrote that people were wandering from “the truth.” What is “the truth” in the context of this letter? What reasons might people have for wandering from this truth?
- At the end of all the reasons we can come up with, what is the real reason that anyone would wander from the truth?
- What proactive processes can we put in place to help us cling to and remember the truth of Scripture, so that we are less inclined to walk away from it?
- Look at the three parables in Luke 15. What common themes do you notice? What lengths did God go to in order to seek you? Why should this motivate us to seek others who are wandering?
- Why do we have the tendency to look at people who are wandering and think, “That’s not my problem”? How is this thinking unbiblical?

- When we go after those who are wandering, what should be the goal of our search? What hope can we offer them as they return?
- How do we ensure that when we seek the wanderer, the goal is restoration and not “I told you so’s”? As they come back, how should we treat them?
- Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12. What does it look like to practically love those who return after wandering?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- What potential hang-ups or fears do you have that would keep you from chasing after someone who has wandered from the faith? Work through these as a group.
- What should we do if someone who regularly attends this group wanders from the faith? Why can't we assume that it will never happen to us?
- Does anyone have experience going after someone who walked away from the faith? What happened? Has anyone come up in your mind through the sermon or our discussion? What can you do to take action, and how can we hold you accountable?

WORK OUT (THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS)

PRAYER REQUESTS

MY NEXT STEPS

1. This week, I will go to someone who has fallen away from the faith to encourage them.
2. This week, I will look at my own life to see the areas where I may have drifted from God.
3. This week, I will thank the Lord for rescuing me.
4. This week, I will memorize Galatians 6:1-2: ¹ “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”