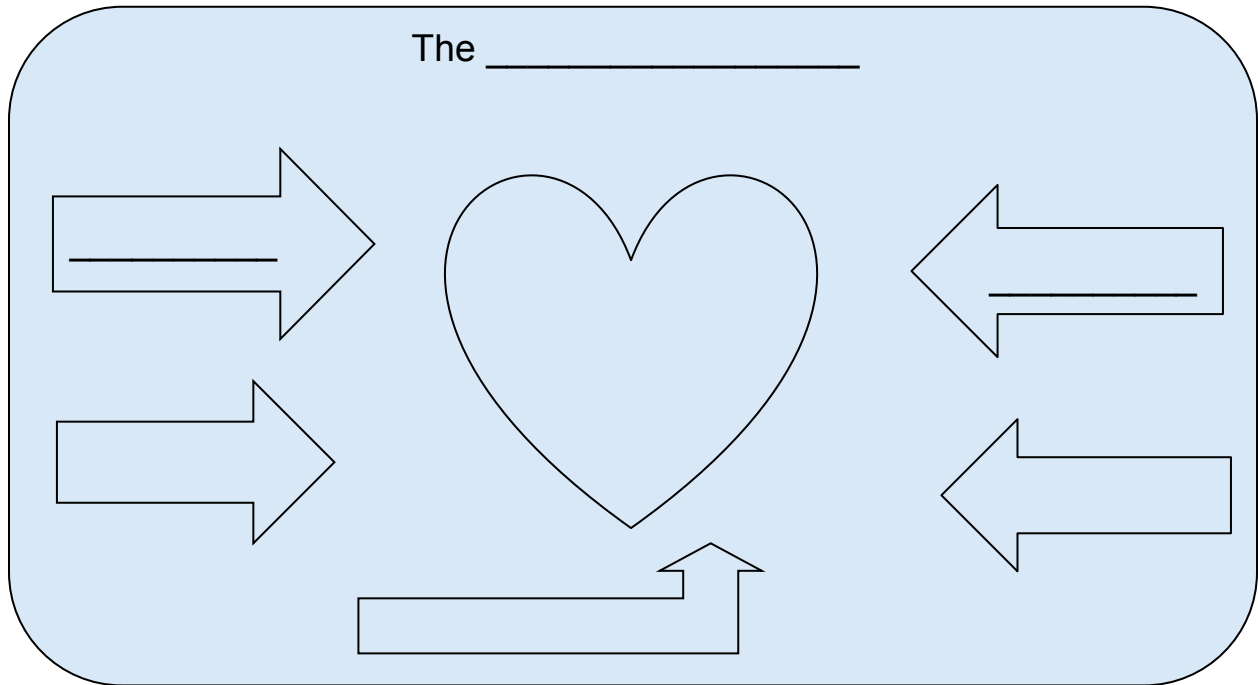
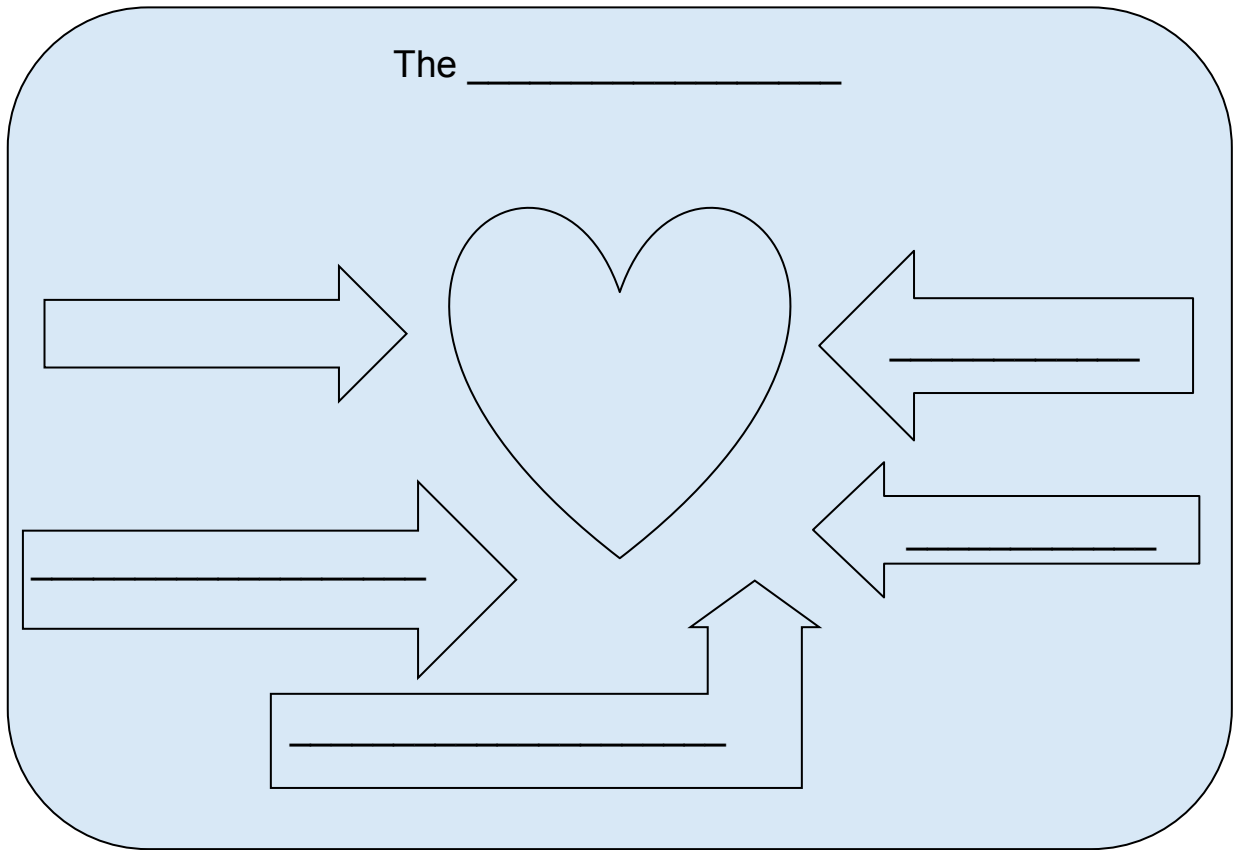


Becoming a Kingdom Builder Listening Guide

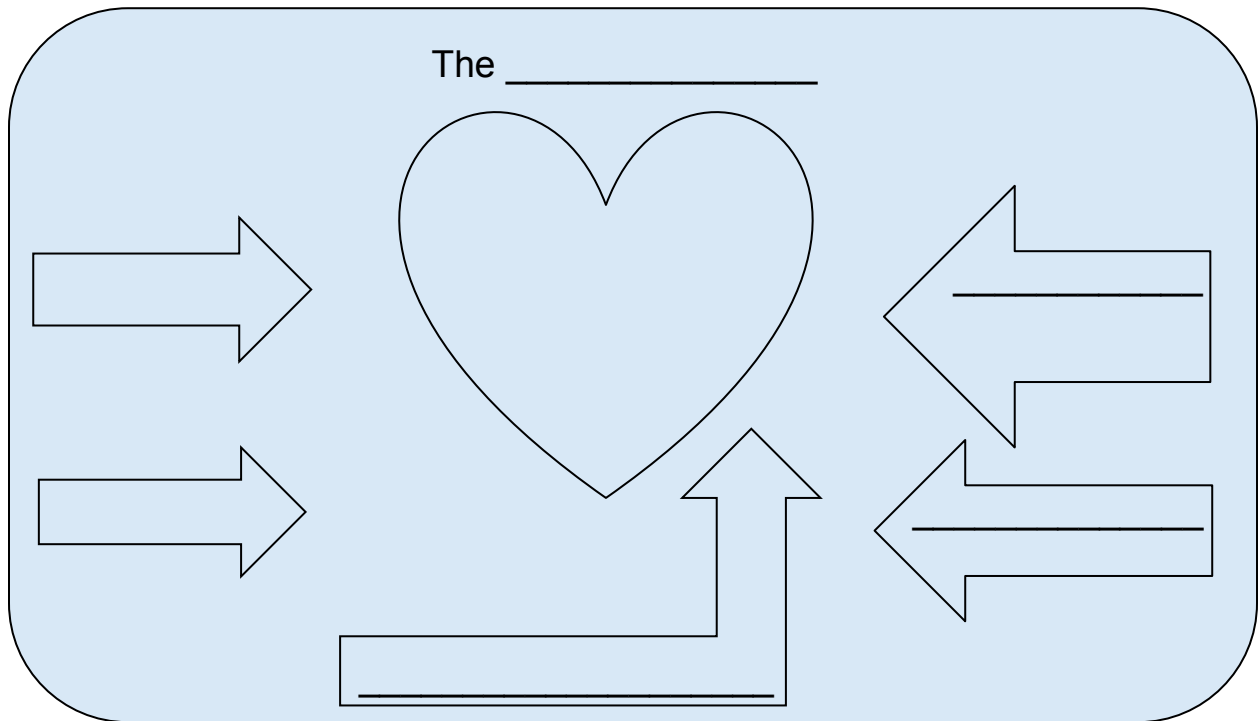
1. Profile 1: _____ (James 4:13-17)



2. Profile 2: _____ (James 5:1-6)



3. Profile 3: _____ (Matthew 6:33)



FAITHWORKS II

Enduring Faith
James 5:7-12

DAY 1

Pray: Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Please open this time in prayer asking the Lord to enlighten you through His word today.

Memorize: James 5:11 says, “Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” Please say the first part of the verse several times, stressing different words each time:

“Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.”

Study: Please read James 5:7-12. Today we’ll focus on vs. 7-8.

1. From vs. 7, what’s the “therefore” there for? _____

2. Please read the following verses and explain what they tell you about the coming of the Lord:
 - a. Matthew 24:36-42 _____

 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5:2 _____

 - c. 2 Peter 3:8-10 _____

 - d. 1 John 3:2 _____

3. From vs. 7-9, what do you think the believers were thinking about the 2nd coming of Christ? _____

4. What impact does the 2nd coming of Christ have in your actions and attitudes? _____

5. James refers to the early and late rains of harvest for the farmers. The early rain was the rain of late October and early November without which the seed would not germinate. Please compare that to the Christian walk. What might the early rains be in your walk with Christ? _____

6. The late rain was the rain of April and May without which the grain would not mature. Please compare that to the Christian walk. What might the late rains be in your walk with Christ?

7. What is the difference between being patient about the coming of Christ and being indifferent?

8. How might the following verses help you to understand what it means to “establish your heart”?

a. Psalm 27:14 _____

b. 1 Peter 4:7-9 _____

c. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 _____

d. Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

9. What things in your life fight to keep you from establishing your heart with the Lord?

10. How does having a view to the coming of Christ motivate you in establishing your heart?

Pray: Please close this time in prayer, asking the Lord to “prepare your mind for action, to be sober-minded, and to set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13).

DAY 2

Pray: Psalm 117:2 NASB says, “For His lovingkindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!” Please pray that God will reveal His everlasting truth to you today as you study His word.

Memorize: Please fill in the blanks: James 5:11, “ _____, we consider those _____ who _____ steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.” Please say the whole verse several times.

Study: Please read James 5:7-12. Today we’ll focus on vs. 9.

1. In vs. 9, what is the command given, and what is the reason for the command?
 - a. Command: _____
 - b. Reason: _____
2. How is grumbling against another believer being a judge? _____

3. Please read Matthew 7:1-5 and Matthew 12:22-24.
 - a. How were the Pharisees judging Jesus? _____

 - b. What motives might have caused them to say these things about Jesus? _____

 - c. How did their judgment of Jesus ultimately end? (see Luke 23:33) _____

 - d. How did Jesus respond to their judgment? (see Luke 23:34) _____

4. Please refer to Matthew 7:1-5 again.
 - a. Without writing down too many details, please share a situation where you were tempted to grumble about another person. _____

- b. How were you tempted to judge that person? _____

 - c. Please read Matthew 7:2. Knowing that you will be judged to the degree that you judge, how does that change your perspective? _____

 - d. Please read Matthew 7:3. What rod may have been in your eye in the situation? _____

 - e. Please read Matthew 7:4-5. How is helping to take a speck out of your brother's eye different than judging? _____

 - f. How does Jesus' response to the Pharisees' judgment affect your perspective? _____

 - g. How might the situation have gone differently if you had approached it without grumbling or judging? _____

5. What do the following Scriptures say about the Judge?
- a. 1 Samuel 2:10 _____
 - b. Isaiah 11:4 _____
 - c. Isaiah 16:5 _____
 - d. Romans 12:17-19 _____
 - e. 1 Corinthians 4:5 _____
 - f. James 4:11-12 _____
6. What is one thing that you'll take from this message to apply to your life? _____

Pray: Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord what you've learned about Him and about yourself. Thank Him for His mercy and grace in your life...He doesn't deal with you according to your sins (Psalm 103:10).

DAY 3

Pray: 1 Chronicles 29:12 says, “Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.” As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to give you strength to understand His word and to apply it to your life.

Memorize: Please fill in the blanks: James __:__, “_____, we consider those _____ who _____ steadfast. You have _____ of the steadfastness of _____, and you have _____ the _____ of the Lord, how the Lord is _____ and merciful.”

Study: Please read James 5:7-12. Today we’ll focus on vs. 10-11.

1. Please refer back to vs. 7-9. What 4 commands does James give (1 is repeated)?
 - a. Vs. 7 _____
 - b. Vs. 8 _____
 - c. Vs. 8 _____
 - d. Vs. 9 _____
2. How are the commands of vs. 7-9 significant in understanding how to handle suffering?

3. Which of the commands of vs. 7-9 do you find most difficult to follow? Why?

4. Please look up the following Scriptures and explain the example they give us about the prophets’ suffering:
 - a. Jeremiah 20:1-2 _____

 - b. Ezekiel 1:1-3 (exile: the state of being forced from one’s own country)

c. Daniel 3:8-23 _____

5. If they suffered for their faith, why does James say, "Behold, we consider those *blessed* who remain steadfast" in vs. 11? _____

6. What hope does Matthew 5:11-12 give in regards to suffering for your faith? _____

7. What struggles have you experienced for your faith? _____

8. What struggles are you willing to experience because of your faith in Jesus?

9. What questions and doubts do you wrestle with when you go through struggles?

10. What hope do the following verses give you in the midst of your suffering?

a. Isaiah 41:13 _____

b. 1 Peter 1:6-7 _____

c. 1 Peter 5:6-11 _____

Pray: Please close this time by writing a prayer to the Lord. Please tell Him your fears about suffering, the hope that His word gives you as you walk through the suffering, and the commitment you are willing to make to Him in the midst of suffering. _____

DAY 4

Pray: Hosea 11:4 says, “I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.” Please open this time in prayer, thanking the Lord for His compassion and mercy.

Memorize: Please unscramble the words for James 5:11:

We behold, merciful steadfast consider and compassionate you have heard blessed how the Lord is of those who remained purpose the steadfastness and you have seen of Job the those the of the Lord.

Study: Please read James 5:7-12. Today we'll focus on vs. 11.

1. To gain perspective on the steadfastness of Job, please read Job 1:1-22.
 - a. What kind of man was Job? (1-5) _____

 - b. What did Satan accuse God of doing? (9-11) _____

 - c. What did Satan do as soon as God gave him permission to touch Job? (12) _____

 - d. What was Job's response to the tragedy that came? (20-22) _____

2. Please read Job 2:1-10.
 - a. What did Satan challenge God to do? (4-5) _____

 - b. How did Job's wife respond to the situation? (9) _____

- c. What must have it been like for Job's wife to go through this tragedy with Job...losing her children, losing her wealth, and watching her husband suffer physically? _____

- d. How did Job respond to this further attack from Satan? (10) _____

3. For the majority of the book, Job's friends come and accuse him of being in this position because of sin even though they had no evidence. (For an example, see Job 4:7-8, 8:20, and 11:14-17.)
- a. Why would a person want to believe that someone else was suffering as a consequence of sin even if there was no evidence of sin? _____

- b. How does Romans 12:15 advise us to act with our brothers and sisters? _____

4. From Job's example, what principles can you apply to your life? _____

5. When we doubt God, we usually question one of three things: His power, His wisdom, or His love. If you were in Job's shoes, which of those things might you question about God?

Pray: As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord what you will take from today's lesson to apply to your relationship with Him.

DAY 5

Pray: Psalm 86:11 says, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name." As you open this time in prayer, please ask the Lord to teach You His way today.

Memorize: Please quote James 5:11 from memory.

Study: Please read James 5:7-12. Today we'll continue with vs. 11 and then focus on vs. 12.

Continuing with our understanding of the steadfastness of Job:

1. Please read Job 40:1-14 where God speaks to Job.
 - a. What is the main point of what God says to Job? _____

 - b. How does Job respond to God? _____

2. To gain perspective on God's compassion and mercy, please read Job 42:1-17.
 - a. What is Job's attitude toward God? (1-6) _____

 - b. How does God show mercy to Job's friends? (7-9) _____

 - c. How does God show mercy and compassion to Job? (10-17) _____

 - d. Reading between the lines, how does God show mercy to Job's wife? _____

3. Compare your response to suffering with Job's.
 - a. How is your response the same? _____

 - b. How is it different? _____

4. Notice that Job's friends accused him and everyone else didn't come around until after God restored him (42:11). How do you respond to a friend who is suffering? _____

5. What do you learn about the character of God from this story? _____

6. Please read James 5:12. There was a distinction—especially in the Jewish world—between oaths that were binding and oaths that were not binding. Any oath in which the name of God was directly used was considered to be definitely binding; but any oath in which direct mention of the name of God was not made, was not binding. The idea was that once God's name was used, He became an active partner in the transaction, but he did not become a partner unless his

name was so introduced. The result of this was that it became a matter of skill and sharp practice to find an oath that was not binding. This made a mockery of the whole practice of confirming anything by an oath.¹

- a. What is the main point of the command? _____

- b. Why is it important to stay true to your word? _____

- c. How does this affect your relationships with:
 - i. Spouse? _____

 - ii. Children? _____

 - iii. Coworkers? _____

 - iv. Friends? _____

 - v. The Lord? _____

7. Please look over James 5:7-12.

- a. How many times does James use the word, "brother"? _____
- b. Why do you think he repeats this word so many times? _____

- c. Please write a summary of what God wants you to learn from vs. 7-12.

Pray: As you close this time in prayer, please rephrase Job's words from Job 42:2, 5-6 into your own prayer: "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted...I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see You; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." _____

¹ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1976). *The letters of James and Peter* (p.126). Philadelphia: Westminster John Knox Press.