

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the Group

Do you have siblings? How many? Where do you fall in the order?

What was/is your relationship with your siblings like?

Why can these relationships sometimes be tricky?

Did you know that Jesus had brothers and sisters? Does knowing this change your image of Jesus? If so, how?

Read John 7:1-9 & Mark 3:20-35

How is Jesus treated by his family? Why do they act this way?

How might this have felt for Jesus? How would you feel if you were rejected by family?

How does Jesus respond to his family? What are the implications of his response?

Read Acts 1:12-14

Why is it significant that Jesus' mother and brothers are listed with the disciples?

Have you ever considered that Mary and James may have been among those preaching on the day of Pentecost? Why would this be significant?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Why is James singled out by Paul as one of the people Jesus appeared to?

If you were James, how would you respond to Jesus appearing to you?

Why does James' encounter with the risen Jesus transform him? What changes?

Why is the reality of the resurrection a fact all people need to grapple with?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Why does Jesus' resurrection matter? What are the full implications of it?

Close in Prayer

Bonus! Read the whole book of James in a single setting. Don't worry, it's short! After you read it, consider what it reveals about James the disciple, about the early Church, and about God. Notice how it echoes the teachings of Jesus (especially the Sermon on the Mount). What most stands out to you in James? What do you want to take to heart and live out?

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