

LIFE, BETTER

Discussion Notes

BETTER AT LIFE

Philip started by saying that: 'Following Jesus won't always make your life better, but it will make you better at life.'

- Do you agree?
- What does it actually mean to be 'better at life'? What is a successful life? What does the world say 'success' is?

The book of James says there are two things you need to succeed in life - strength and skill. Read through James 1:1-9 together; this is a meaty passage with a lot to discuss so you might want to take some time wrestling with the passage, asking what stands out and challenges us.

Strength

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-3

- What does the word 'perseverance' mean to you?
- When have you needed perseverance and what did it look like in practice?
- How do we grow in perseverance? What does it mean to have your faith tested?
- What does it mean to 'let perseverance finish its work'? Do you ever get tempted to take the easy way out of suffering and struggle?
- What would 'mature and complete' look like in your life, relationships, work?

Wisdom

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." James 1:4

Often, we can think of wisdom as an esoteric, theoretical thing. Instead, Philip described Biblical wisdom as 'practical skills for navigating life'.

- What do you think of when you think of 'wisdom'?
- Why is wisdom important?
- How do you think we can grow in wisdom?
- How stable are you in your faith and pursuit of wisdom? Do you waver between doing things God's way and doing them the way of everyone else around you?

Both of these topics are key to journeying through life together: many of us will have situations where we need wisdom and many of us will feel a need for perseverance. Spend some time praying together, asking the Holy Spirit to help us grow in these two areas.