

Week of March 5 - Turn Them Back! Small Group Lesson 18

Connect

How do you feel when you observe someone pick up trash that does not belong to them? Have you done it? Why don't we always do it everywhere we go?

(What boundaries do you have - would you skip work to help the janitor on a tough day at the mall - why not?)

Verses - James 5:19-20 (CSB)

19 My brothers and sisters, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let that person know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

(What do you notice in the verse as you read it that stands out to you? Why?)

Study

1. Who is James addressing? Can we know for sure whether the person who has strayed has saving faith, or may not? However, if those who strayed are among the brothers and sisters, what can we assume what they have claimed to be?

2. Is James' instruction sufficient whether they are Christian or not? In what ways? In either case what is James' desired outcome in addressing this person?

☕ **DISCUSS:** If you were straying from the truth, how would you like someone to speak to you? What "things" and what kind of attitude would be most helpful in this situation towards yourself? What would not be helpful?

🏃 **APPLY:** Read James 1:2-5, what is the overall tone of James? How are his words encouraging to the reader who is struggling? How is this an example to us when we speak to others who are struggling in their faith? What eventually does James tell us TO DO and why are just words not enough?

Share

How were you encouraged recently in your struggles? Who or what encouraged you? What role did God play to provide the encouragement you received?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be encouragers.
- Would you like to share your love and hope in the Lord with **VBS 2023**? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org