



GOING DEEPER AT HOME

APRIL 24: ENDURANCE

Primal refers to the early stage of development or something that is essential to life. James, the half-brother of Jesus writes a letter to the early church that has been scattered due to persecution, calling them back to the basics of faith in Jesus, the things that are primal for their faith development and their life in the midst of difficulty. Drawing on Jesus' most famous teaching, the Sermon on the Mount and the wisdom teaching of the book of Proverbs, James describes what it looks like to follow Jesus when life is not like you imagined it would, what it looks like to follow Jesus when life is hard. James draws us back to what is primal. And to start us off he reminds us that life is not always easy, there are trials and struggles and we will need to endure.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:1 - 18

GOING DEEPER QUESTIONS:

1. What is an essential skill or practice that you have learned that is essential to every day life for you?
2. What is something from the message that stood out to you, was new to you or challenged you?
3. Who is James? Why do you think he doesn't introduce himself as Jesus' brother?
4. How do you typically respond to trials or testing? What does James say is the purpose or end result of testing?
5. The word testing was described as a silversmith process of purifying silver. How does this apply to our lives?
6. In verse 12 James writes that God blesses those who endure temptation. What is James saying & how does this compare to your understanding of blessing & temptation?
7. In verse 18 James writes that we are God's prized possession. How does this sit with you, is it new, is it freeing, is it not true? Why is that?
8. What step is the Holy Spirit inviting you take right now as you search for hope?