**Know the Truth (4/14/24)**

**Discussion Questions**

**Summary:** In order to make sense of our lives and this world, we must know the truth about ourselves and about God. In his first chapter James shows us truth about ourselves: there are blessings for the poor and humble and dangers for the rich and proud; life is very short; and temptation does not come from God but from our own hearts. He also shows us truth about God: He is faithful, generous and good - rewarding the humble and faithfully keeping His promises.

*“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”* Luke 6:20-23

**The Truth about Us:**

* The poor and humble are **Better off** (v. 9-10)
* The rich and powerful are in **Grave danger** (v. 10-11; 5:1-6)
* All of us will enter eternity very **Soon** (v. 11)
* Our problem is not God or suffering but **Ourselves** (v. 12-16)

**The Truth about God:**

* God exalts the humble and **Humbles** the proud (v. 9-11; 4:6-10)
* God **Rewards** those who love Him (v. 12)
* God is completely and constantly **Good** (v. 13,17)
* God is abundantly **Generous** (v. 17)
* God is **Graciously** working in us (v. 18)

**Get Started:**

1. What was your idea of God when you were younger? Where did you get that idea?
2. How has your understanding of God’s nature and goodness developed over the years?

**Dig In:** Read James 1:9-18

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. How does God view the rich and poor? Why? Why is it so hard for us to share this perspective?
3. Where does temptation come from? What does this tell us about ourselves?
4. What does this passage teach us about God?

**Move Forward:**

* How can you rejoice in your exaltation for those areas of your life that you are weak and “poor”?
* How can you boast in your humiliation for those areas of your life that are strong and “rich”?
* What does it look like for you to trust God completely right now?
* How can we pray for you to remain steadfast under trial?