



THE BOOK OF JAMES INTRO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


JAMES 1:1


1 **James, the writer of the Biblical book, was the half-brother of Jesus.** Jude, the writer of the Biblical book, was also the half-brother of Jesus.

 Read why Jesus' brothers were skeptics of Him in John 7:1-13.


 What reasons do you see for their skepticism? If you have been skeptical of Jesus, what are/were your reasons? If you have encountered skeptics in your life as a Christian, what are the most common reasons for their skepticism?

2 **Not only did the brothers not believe, the people in Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, were filled with unbelief.**


 What was the cause of their skepticism in Mark 6:1-6.


 How have you seen jealousy, misunderstanding of someone's calling, and unbelief play out in other Biblical texts? Consider one of these for your answer: Genesis 21:8-13, Genesis 37:10-11, 18-27, Daniel 6:6-13. Also, answer how Jesus responded to the unbelief of Nazareth.

3 **Were Jesus' brothers noticeably present at the crucifixion?** Read John 19:25-27 to find the answer.

 If the cross didn't change James (and Jude), what did? What finally produced the belief in the skeptical James? (see 1 Corinthians 15:3-7).

4 **It is interesting to note that miracles do not necessarily produce belief (see again Mark 6:1-6).** How are you tempted to try to prove Jesus' death, burial and resurrection by some other miracle?

 Why is it important that we believe in the resurrected Christ? Do we have enough information and proof that Jesus rose from the dead?

 Jesus appeared to one notable skeptic in John 20:24-31. What words of Jesus inform those who would follow about skepticism? How can you take these words to heart when dealing with skepticism?

