



Killing Comfort | James Powell | 10.21.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

This weekend James spoke for week seven of our series *Alive and Free*. The title of his message was Killing Comfort. Comfort is not necessarily the enemy, but it sure has a way of changing our focus away from what God has called us to, toward a life free from any sort of difficulty. If we aren't careful, we can miss out on "life to the full" as Jesus spoke of in John 10:10. James specifically taught this week about how our friendships should be about much more than finding people who have a lot in common with us.

Share with the group what your favorite comfort food is.

What is something that brings you comfort? Do you see yourself as someone who is often concerned with finding comfort?

What does "life to the full" mean to you?

GROW

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-7

Paul writes that we serve the God of all comfort. But we don't just have comfort for the sake of comfort. He says that it's so "we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." As James said this weekend, we don't need a comforter if we're already living a comfortable life.

What does it look like to get outside of your comfort zone in the context of friendship?

Oftentimes when we take an honest assessment of our closest relationships, most of them are people that look like us, talk like us, and have the same opinions. What are some ways that you can connect with people that are different from you?

How does comfort get in the way of challenging yourself or experiencing new things?

Can you think of a time when you were challenged to push past comfort? How did that impact you?

Can you think of a time where someone put aside their differences and pursued a deeper relationship with you?

Jesus is the perfect example of this. He left heaven and came to Earth to show us his unconditional love. He was a friend to sinners and tax collectors and now the Holy Spirit is an advocate for us. In the midst of our messy lives, we get the consistent help of a perfect God that pushes us to be who He created us to be.

MOVE

Take a few minutes to split into pairs and answer these questions one-on-one if you'd like. Then get back together as a group and share your biggest takeaways.

Comfort is a good place to lay but a horrible place to live. What practical steps can you take this week to push yourself?

Do you have any unaddressed conflict with a friend? How can you get uncomfortable in that relationship in hopes that you might repair the relationship?

What barriers do you have in your life that keep you from having closer relationships?

Christ followers can sometimes be known better for what we're against than what we are for. In the midst of so much controversy and division, how can we shift that perception toward showing people the love that is in Jesus?

ACTIVITY

This week challenge yourself to invite a friend or family member to church. Pick another person in your group to check in with midweek and encourage!

PRAY

Pray this week for God to reveal to you some ways that you may be a little too comfortable. Pray that he would give you boldness to press into those relationships in your life that may require more effort than others.