REFLECTION GUIDE

7.2.23

INTRO

The book of James offers us wise and practical advice about how to live a life of faith that makes a difference in the world.

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Wise and perfect God, thank you for the scriptures that help me see myself clearly.

Guide me to make the necessary adjustments as I continue striving to be more like Jesus.

Remind me of your grace that allows me to reflect who you are even if I am not perfect.

Help me to live authentically, not hiding my flaws but seeking your grace and forgiveness each day. May my honesty with you and others encourage those around me to live authentically as well. I pray your spirit of truth will reveal the things I need to do differently to reflect you more and more. Amen

DIGGING DEEPER

- Think back to high school. Was there a course you took that felt like a waste of time? Why?
- In James 1:22-25 we read, "You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do." [CEB]
 - How do we mislead ourselves when we do not do what we what we've learned is right?
 - How have you been intentional about practicing the things God has taught you?
- In the famous animated movie, *Snow White*, the evil queen gazes into the mirror seeking affirmation.
 - In what ways do we seek to believe things about ourselves that aren't necessarily true?
 - Why do we tend to avoid honesty about our shortcomings?
- Ephesians 5:1-2 says, "Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God." [CEB]
 - When children of God look into the mirror, what should we see?
 - How does God's grace enable us to look honestly at our reflection while maintaining hope and joy?
 - When you examine where you are on your faith journey, what is one step God might be nudging you to take?

