



Don't Forget Where You Came From | James Powell | 09.08.2024
Weekly Study

SHARE

As group members get settled, take a few minutes to check in with everyone and see how life is going. Share an exciting story from this week, your highs and lows, an answered prayer, or something you're struggling with. If someone is really struggling, rally the group around them and take a few moments to pray over them.

- **Share a high and a low from last week.**
- **If you were any animal on earth, which one would you be and why? Was this animal designed to blend into its surroundings or stand out? Explain.**
- **Is there an “uncommon” practice or habit in your life that has positively impacted you as a person? Explain.**

GROW

Welcome to our brand-new series, *Uncommon*. We live in a divided world where it can feel impossible to find common ground. But what if our call is bigger than common ground? At Red Rocks Church, we believe God calls us to live differently on purpose, for a bigger purpose.

Nothing about life with God should be common because we do not serve a common God. If we want to step into our uncommon calling, we have to set ourselves apart from common things.

In James's message, *Don't Forget Where You Came From*, we're reminded of the uncommon nature of the early church and how we can embody that same spirit today. We're challenged to reconnect with our spiritual heritage found in Acts 1-2, drawing strength from the early believers who faced immense challenges yet remained steadfast. The message highlights four aspects of the early church: (1) uncommon proof of Christ's resurrection, (2) uncommon power through the Holy Spirit, (3) an uncommon purpose to reach wide, and (4) an uncommon pattern of constant prayer and fellowship. By embracing these qualities, we can become an unstoppable force for good in our world, regardless of the challenges we face.

Read Acts 1:2-8, Acts 2:42-47

- **What were your biggest takeaways from James's message this week?**
- **Which uncommon practice is most difficult for you to believe/embrace/live out? Explain.**
- **How can your group "reach wide" and invite others into your community this week?**

Read Galatians 5:22-25, Galatians 5:16-18, Matthew 12:25-28

- **Which of your preferences, habits, or beliefs are you holding more tightly than the Gospel of Jesus? Explain.**
- **How do these things directly conflict with the fruit of the Spirit working within your life, as suggested by the scriptures above?**
- **What are your current thoughts, beliefs, and experiences with the Holy Spirit moving within you? What situations/seasons does the Spirit feel near? When does it feel distant? Explain.**

M O V E

You often hear that Red Rocks Church is made up of broken, imperfect people pursuing a perfect God. This isn't just a catchy slogan to appeal to the masses; it's a model set by the Apostle Peter and the early church — part of God's plan from the very beginning. There's something deep in our spirit that is drawn to stories like this. As James points out, that's one reason the Marvel Avengers movies have become the most popular superhero series in history. They took vastly different people with nothing in common except unspeakable pain and suffering as a main theme in their lives. As they came together, they found a way to unite under their brokenness and turn their pain into a purpose powerful enough to defeat a common enemy.

You might be thinking, "That's great, but those stories are fictional." Before dismissing them as irrelevant, consider this: we all have stories filled with pain and brokenness; we are each part of a story much bigger than ourselves. While we may disagree on many things, we share a common purpose and a common enemy. And although we might not be able to fly, throw cars with our super-human strength, or fire energy beams from our homemade suit of armor, we have the power of the Holy Spirit moving and working within us—a heavenly power beyond anything we could possibly imagine.

Revelation 12:10-11 captures this idea, but here's the key: our testimony only has power when the internal transformation we've experienced is externally lived out in such a way that brings hope, healing, and freedom to the ends of the earth. So, ask yourself: is your life uncommon evidence to a watching world of the life and miracles of Jesus? Or is your life indistinguishable from what's common in today's culture, your workplace, and your neighborhood?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 NIV

- **What are your thoughts on the passage and scriptures above? Explain.**
- **What are some practical ways you can invite the Holy Spirit to refine and transform areas of your life, replacing worldly habits with heavenly qualities, so that you can be a more effective witness in your daily life? Explain.**

- **What uncommon pattern from the early church would benefit your individual walk of faith and your group/community if you adopted it into your daily/weekly practice?**

Read Luke 11:24-26 NIV, Romans 8:26-27 CSB

- **How can you actively invite the Holy Spirit to replace worldly desires with godly ones, ensuring you are not just "cleaning house" but truly transforming?**
- **Have you ever been frustrated during prayer, not knowing what to say? Explain.**

P R A Y

Take five minutes of quiet time to pray. Instead of asking for what you think you need, invite the Holy Spirit to pray on your behalf. Sit in silence and let God speak to you. Afterward, come back together as a group and share what you heard.