

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Taking Responsibility for Your Life Leader Guide Session 1: Let the Blames Begin

Video Overview:

Am I taking responsibility for my life ... really?"

Irresponsibility—whether it's in our family, our workspace, our church, our community, or our nation—is contagious. That's especially so when we see people getting away with being irresponsible, and even being rewarded for it.

Whenever anyone acts irresponsibly, somebody has to come along and shoulder the burden of his or her irresponsibility.

Irresponsibility isn't a solo thing; it always impacts whoever's connected to the person who's irresponsible. Irresponsibility is ultimately a community matter, a family matter, a corporate matter.

All of us at times want to shirk our responsibilities. But followers of Jesus know that they must not do this, because they're ultimately accountable to their heavenly Father. Christians should be the most responsible people on the planet, since they understand the connectedness of their families and communities and culture.

In the Bible, the early chapters of Genesis show us when irresponsibility was introduced into the human race. We read in Genesis 1 that God gave responsibility for the earth's care to the man and woman he had created. Along with that responsibility, he gave them a single prohibition to stay away from a certain tree. This was before humankind sinned and many centuries before God gave his people the Ten Commandments. In the beginning, there was just one rule and a lot of responsibility.

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Again, God designed us to be responsible. We know this intuitively. We're the happiest when we're being responsible.

In Genesis, we see that as soon as Adan and Eve sinned, they threw off their accountability to God. They felt ashamed and tried to hide from him.

God confronted Adam first about this; he was holding Adam accountable. Adam could have responded, "Yes, I take full responsibility for everything. Do with me as you will." But instead he blamed Eve-who said it wasn't her fault either. The blame game began.

Irresponsibility always creates conflict-not only interpersonal conflict, but conflict within us as we try to hide our guilt.

Our culture is full of people who live every single day with the weight of shame and guilt over the irresponsible behavior that they've blamed their way out of and for which no one has held them accountable.

Discussion Questions:

1. "Am I taking responsibility for my life ... Really?" At this point in your life, how would you answer that question?
2. Do you ever feel you have a right to be irresponsible, that you can do and say whatever you want and no one can hold you accountable? When are you most tempted to feel this way, and why?
3. As you look at others around you, in what ways do you see irresponsibility being rewarded? How does this affect you?
4. In what significant ways have you experienced the truth that we're happiest doing a good job at something we're responsible for?
5. What do you consider to be your most significant areas of responsibility in life?

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



6. How have you seen personally that irresponsibility creates conflict-both within ourselves and with others around us? If so, what have you learned from this?