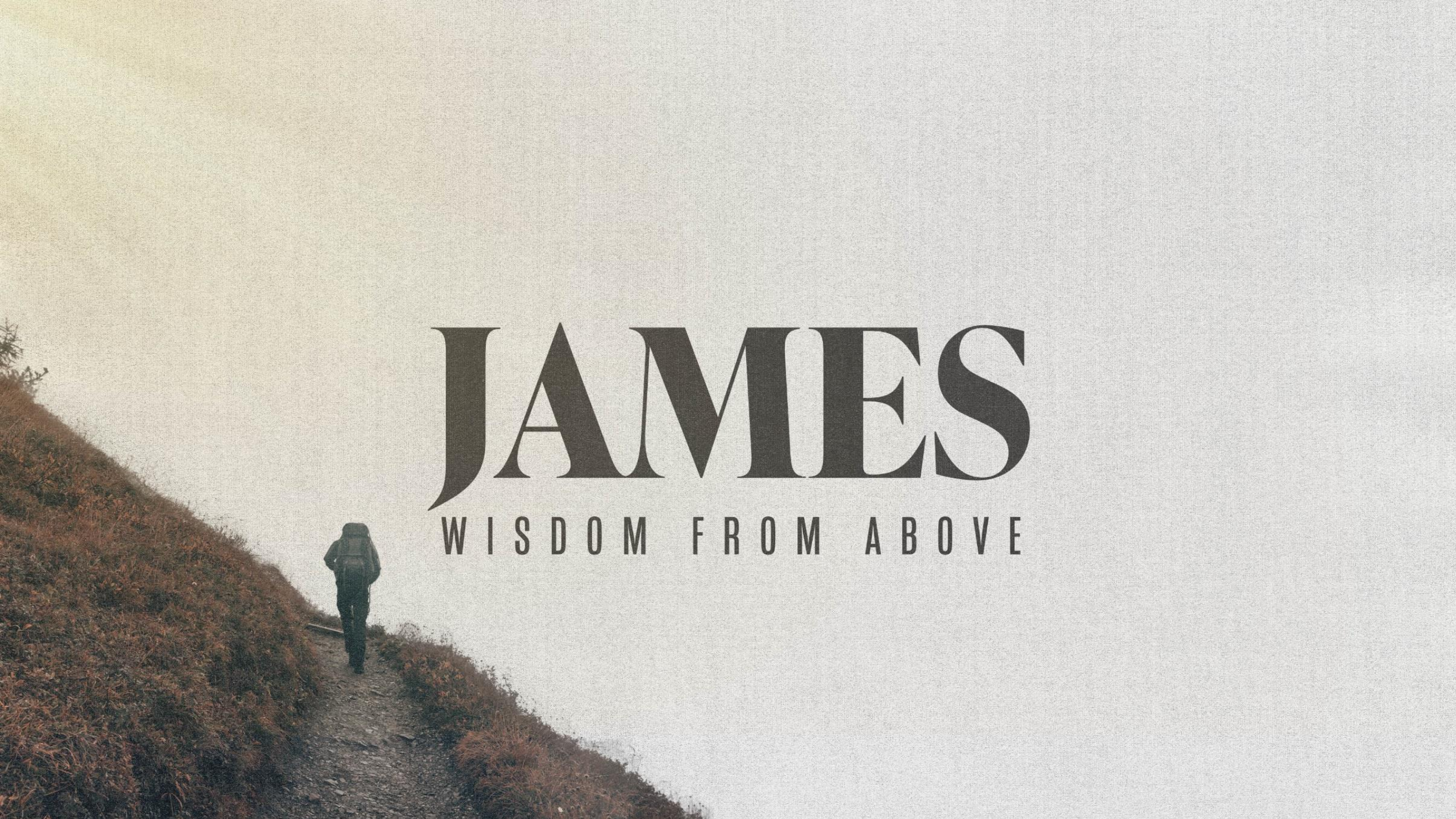


A person with a backpack is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that runs along the edge of a grassy hillside. The hillside is covered in dry, brownish grass. The sky above is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

JAMIES

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

INTRO TO JAMES

JAMES 1:1-4



The overarching theme of James

Because of the grace given to us, we are to live our whole lives in holiness...which humbly testifies to our living faith...in Christ.



JAMES 1:1-4

- INTRODUCTORY MATTERS (1:1)
 - Who is James?
 - To whom is James writing?
 - What is the message of James?
- PARADIGM SHIFT FOR LIFE (2-4)
 - Joy even through trials is possible
 - Testing galvanizes our faith in God
 - Steadfastness leads to Christlikeness



INTRODUCTORY MATTERS (1:1)

- Who is James?
 - The Lord's younger brother
 - The Leader of the church in Jerusalem
- To whom is James writing?
 - 12 tribes of the dispersion=early church
 - Comprised of faith-filled Jews and Gentiles
- What is the message of James?
 - He focuses on fruits that evidence faith
 - The structure and flow of the letter



Two theologians on James

J.C. Ryle:

There is no greater delusion than the common idea that it is possible to live wickedly, and yet rise again gloriously.

Doug Moo:

James condemns any form of Christianity that drifts into a sterile, actionless orthodoxy.



Dan Doriani

"James, like the Sermon on the Mount, is sublime and penetrating, almost too penetrating."



PARADIGM SHIFT FOR LIFE (2-4)

- Joy even through trials is possible (v.2)
- Testing galvanizes our faith in God (v.3)
- Steadfastness leads to Christlikeness (v.4)

