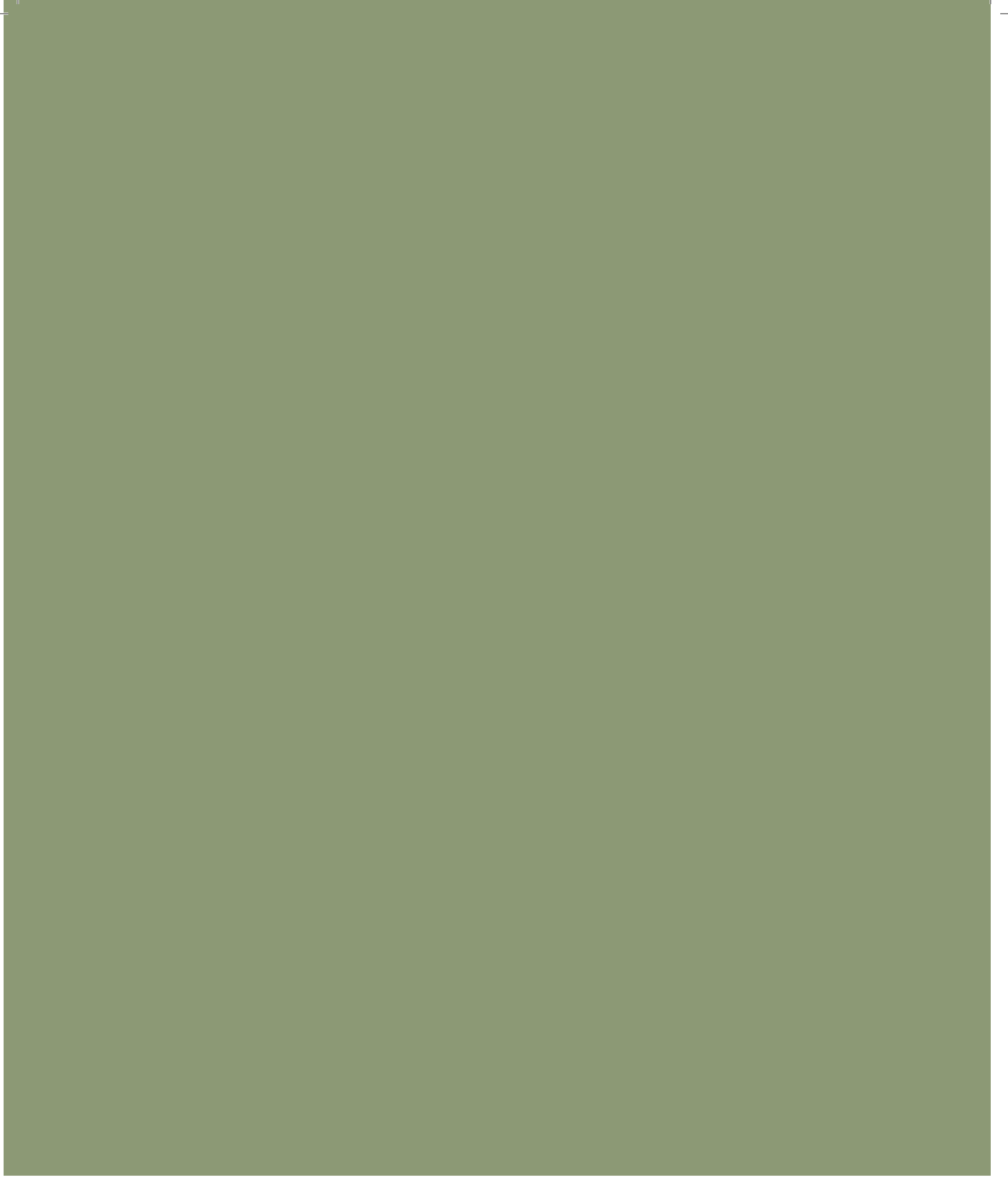


JAMES

MEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY



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WELCOME TO JAMES!

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. James 1:19 ESV

Men of Christ! Welcome to an important study for all Christians...the Book of James. This one short book of the New Testament has often been misinterpreted. This has led to incorrect assessments of Christ's path to Salvation, the very core of our belief-system.

Having grown up in a religion that used James' epistle as basis for works to earn Salvation, I was shaken to my core when I heard & learned how James should be interpreted. This was an exciting and vibrant picture of the Christian - life after Salvation had been received through grace! These revelations became a catalyst to my personal study and understanding of the Bible to this day.

This lesson is pivotal for our learning, our discipleship, and our growth in the Christian-life! Be encouraged that you are hearing God's Word in a manner that He intended and not with confusion. We pray the Lord's message will come through to you in this Study and increase your knowledge of Christian purpose in this life. The maturing path of learning and understanding which leads to close relationship in Christ is a great goal for all of us. Enjoy this Study!

HOW TO STUDY THE WORD OF GOD

Our Mission and Vision:

Our mission is for participants to be active students in the study of the Bible through the following tools:

- Curriculum rooted in God's Word, designed to build first-hand knowledge of the text and spiritual growth for participants of all backgrounds
- Guided conversation through Scripture within small groups
- Sound teaching by teachers in the local church

Our vision is to see women and men grow in their knowledge and love of God, to be transformed by His Word, and to become Christ-like influencers within the context of the larger community.

Our Method:

This Bible study may look a little different than others you have done. Instead of looking at a particular topic, we will be spending seven weeks in one book of the Bible. Studying the book of James from beginning to end will allow the topics to introduce themselves. First, we will glean the background information of the book to put James in the proper context. We will need to answer some essential questions: Who wrote this? To whom was it written? When and why was it written?

Once context has been established, we will be better positioned to study and understand the content. The study guide has been written to be just that, a guide through the book of James. As you work through these questions, you will gain first-hand knowledge, meaning you will learn for yourself. The questions in this guide are not written to be difficult, but to take you through three important stages of learning: comprehension, interpretation, and application.

Comprehension: *What does the text say?*

This stage of learning involves reading repetitively to gain familiarity with the text and looking for detail. We look for any words or phrases that are repeated. We use a dictionary to look up definitions to words we may not fully understand. We look for key transition words (if/then, therefore, but) and see how they connect the text. We write out any questions that arise because it is okay to have questions as you study. And we take note of any attributes of God that are illustrated or that arise as we read. There is a copy of James in the appendix. This is for you to mark in as you read and study.

Interpretation: *What does the text mean?*

This stage of learning involves implying things from the text beyond what it says. While it is easy to read a blog or listen to a sermon and get the answer, we want to use our own minds in this process. We do our best to answer, allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. We look up cross-references to better answer the question, “what does this mean?”

Application: *How should this change me?*

While we are now looking at how to apply the text to ourselves, this stage of learning is drawn from a God-centered perspective. We ask questions like, What does this teach me about God? Is there an example to follow? Is there a sin to avoid? Is there a promise to claim? While it more natural for us to look at others and how the text would apply to them, we must apply the text to ourselves first and foremost. It is only after our own personal application that we are equipped to share how it works in the lives of others.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY

Small Group Time

Each week, we will have large group teaching and then you will meet in your small group to discuss the chapter. Our weekly format will be as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 6:45 pm | Arrival and Childcare Check-In |
| 7:00 – 7:30 pm | Large Group Teaching |
| 7:40 – 8:25 pm | Small Group Breakout Sessions |
| 8:30 pm | Dismissal |

Your small group is a place to share what you have been learning and to build community. Small groups are most effective when members follow some simple guidelines:

- Confidentiality – help create a safe place to share by making sure that what is said in your group stays in your group
- Respect – allow for differing opinions and experiences
- Collaboration – give everyone an opportunity to share
- Prayer – pray for each other throughout the week

Personal Study

Each week, you will have the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of God's word by using the study guide in this book. Whether you are brand-new to studying the Bible or a veteran scholar, we hope you will challenge yourself to learn and grown in this study. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of the curriculum:

- The more you put into this study the more you will get out of it.
- Challenge yourself each week to complete as much of the Personal Study section as you can.
- At a minimum, **try to complete Day 1** so you have read through the chapter and are familiar with it.
- If you have more time try to engage as many of the questions from Days 2-5 as you can.
- Bring your questions and insights to your small group to discuss. We can't wait to hear what God is teaching you!

A note about Bible versions

This curriculum uses the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible. Feel free to use other translations as you study and compare the wording in each. There isn't any one "best" version of the Bible because different translations can have different purposes.

Some versions of the Bible are translated directly or very closely from the original text (which was written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic), making them ideal for study purposes. In addition to the ESV, these include the NIV, the NASB or the NKJV, among others. Some translations are not as helpful for studying (since they are not translated directly from the original language), but can be useful in hearing what God's word is saying at the heart level or in plain language. These include the NLT or the Message.

If you have any questions about Bible versions, ask one of the teachers or your small group leader.

WEEK ONE: OVERVIEW OF JAMES

Teaching Notes

Explore the Text

For Week 1, we will be exploring the text in our small group.

Read the entire book of James, out loud, as a group. As you read make notes about the following?

Are there words or ideas that seem to jump out to you or reoccur?

How would you describe James' tone and writing style?

How might James role as the head of the Church in Jerusalem influence his writing?

Why is it important that James is writing to a Jewish audience? What do we have to be mindful of as we read James because of this fact?

What question do we need to ask when we see the word "save" or "saved"?

Day 2: JAMES 1:1-4

Write the Memory Verse: James 1:19.

1. How does James identify himself? What does this tell you about him?
2. What kind of trials were these first century Jewish Christians facing? Examine Acts 8:1, Acts 9:1-2, and Acts 12:1-4 to provide supporting details for your answer.
3. What does the testing of faith produce (v. 3)? Look up the definition of this word.

4. APPLICATION

James is calling on the early church to consider it a joy when they face trials. What does it mean to face trials with joy?

What are some trials you are facing now? To what degree are you facing them with joy?

5. How might perseverance make you perfect and complete, not lacking in anything?

6. APPLICATION

Reflect on a time when you persevered through a trial. How were you made perfect and complete?

Day 3: JAMES 1:5-11

Write the Memory Verse: James 1:19. (Try to do it without looking.)

1. What should you do if you lack wisdom? What will be given and why?

2. How should you ask? What should you be sure NOT to do when you ask?

3. APPLICATION

What does this passage tell us that we can be sure we will receive when we ask?

How do we ask without doubting?

Read Mark 9:14-29. How can this passage give us perspective on asking in faith?

4. Based on the surrounding context, who might be the lowly brother? (v. 9-11)

5. What reason does the lowly brother have to boast? Can you give reasons from other books of the Bible to support this?

6. What caution does this passage give to those who are wealthy? Is James saying that being rich is wrong?

7. APPLICATION

By virtually any measure, we are rich. If this is so, how can we direct our lives to avoid James' warning in this passage?

Day 4: JAMES 1:12-18

Write the Memory Verse: James 1:19 without looking.

b. 1 Peter 1:6-8

3. Read James 1:13-14?

a. Does God tempt anyone? Why or why not?

b. What does tempt us?

c. Where does temptation lead and how does it get there?

d. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does God provide amid temptation?

4. APPLICATION

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What do you learn about Jesus? How does knowing this about Jesus help us when we are tempted?

Given what James teaches about temptation, what can we do to resist it?

For further study:

Look at 2 Timothy 4:8. How does this passage help to clarify what the “crown of life” might be?

Day 5: JAMES 1: 16-27

What verse or idea has most stood out to you in Chapter 1?

1. What kind of gifts does the Father give? List some that you have received from Him.

2. What is the “word” referred to in verses 21-23? Read the following verses to help with your answer.

James 1:18

James 1:21

James 1:25

3. What specific instructions are given in James 1:19?

4. What does NOT produce the righteousness that God requires? Why not? What about righteous anger?

5. APPLICATION

Anger is a problem for many men. To what degree do you struggle with anger? How often does anger produce anything positive?

How can the first two commands in v. 19 help us with the third?

6. Read verses 22-26. What advice does James give and what is his reasoning?
7. How does James clarify what he means by the “perfect law”? What is this law?

8. How does James define true religion? What are the characteristics of someone who practices true religion?

9. APPLICATION

In what specific ways do you deceive yourself? How can you walk in pure and undefiled religion today?

d. What does this text tell you about God?

Day 2: JAMES 2:1-7

Write the Memory Verse for the week. James 2:8

1. Who is James addressing in verse 1 and what are they already holding?

2. Look up the definition: PARTIALITY

3. Read James 2:2, 3. Contrast the two men.

a. What differences do you notice in how they look?

- b. What differences do you observe in how they are treated?

4. APPLICATION

While this letter was written to first century Christians, favoritism is still very prevalent today. What are some current examples of favoritism in our culture? In the church?

- 5. Read James 2:5.

- a. Whom has God chosen to be rich in faith? Why do you think this is?

- b. Whom has God chosen to be heirs of the kingdom?

- c. What does it mean to be an heir of the kingdom?

6. Read Jesus' Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-25.
- How does Luke describe the rich person?
 - How does Luke describe Lazarus?
 - Why can it be difficult for rich people to be rich in faith?
7. According to James 2:6, who has dishonored the poor?
8. How were the rich treating these first century Christians? How were they treating the name of Jesus? (James 2:6-7)

9. APPLICATION

James has some very harsh things to say about being rich. What is the problem with wealth that James is addressing here?

Day 3: JAMES 2:8-13

Write this week's Memory Verse from James 2:8.

1. What is the royal law in verse 8? Look at Matthew 22:37-40 and Mark 12:28-31 to see what Jesus said about this law.
2. Why is loving your neighbor as yourself doing well?

3. Read James 2:9.
 - a. What sin does James point out?

 - b. Why is this a sin? How serious is it?

4. APPLICATION

What are some areas where you can be or have been tempted to show favoritism?

5. What law is James referencing in James 2:9? Examine Exodus 20:1-11 to help you with your answer.

6. What shift does James make in his discussion of the law in v. 12? Why might this be significant?

7. APPLICATION

Do you tend to think of your sins as “not that bad” or rate them in comparison to other people’s sin? How can you take your own sin more seriously?

8. James 1:25 refers to the law of liberty or the law that gives freedom. This description of the law is given again in James 2:25. In your own words, describe what this law means.

9. What do you think James means by verse 12?

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.

10. What did Jesus say about the merciful in Matthew 5:7?

c. What is salvation?

d. Look up the definition: GRACE

3. Look up the definition: FAITH

4. How is faith defined in Hebrews 11:1?

5. Read James 2:15-16. How do these verses clarify what James means in verse 14?

6. APPLICATION

What are some specific ways you can put your faith in action? How can you tangibly love your neighbor as yourself?

7. Why would James say that faith without works is dead? (Consider the illustration he used in v. 15.)

8. Read Luke 6:43-45. How does this apply to James 2:15-17?

9. APPLICATION

What fruit do you see in your life? What evidence can you point to that your faith is alive?

For further study.

Read Matthew 15:29-39 and Matthew 20:29-34. How was Jesus' faith put into action by caring for the physical needs of others?

Day 5: JAMES 2:20-26

What verse or idea has most stood out to you in Chapter 2?

1. Read verse 18-20. What does it mean to “show” our faith? What is the relationship James is trying to establish between faith and works?
2. In verses 21-25, what two people does James reference as examples of faith being justified by works?
3. Read verse 26. What is the relationship between the body and the spirit? How does this connect to faith and works?

4. APPLICATION

Describe a time God asked you to put your faith into action by sacrificing something? How did God prove to be faithful?

5. Read Joshua 2.

a. Whom did Rahab protect? (Joshua 2:1)

b. How did she protect them? (Joshua 2:4-7)

c. What did she ask the spies to do in return? (Joshua 2:14)

d. How did Rahab's works save her? See Joshua 6:15-25) How did her works justify her faith?

6. APPLICATION

How might the example of Rahab connect to James' discussion of favoritism in the beginning of chapter 2? How can we apply this lesson to our lives?

For further study.

Read Genesis 22:1-19.

- a. What did God ask Abraham to do?

- b. Was Abraham obedient to do what God asked?

- c. How did Abraham's actions justify his faith?

Teaching Notes

d. What does this text tell you about God?

Day 2: JAMES 3:1-2

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 3:7, 8.

1. What caution does James give to those who wish to teach? Why do you think he gives this warning?
2. In verse two, James uses the word “perfect.” Compare this same word usage in James 1:4, James 1:16, and James 1:25. What idea is being conveyed?
3. Are the standards James sets forth in verse 2 attainable? What is he trying to communicate?

4. APPLICATION

Everyone's mouth can get them in trouble. In what ways do you tend to get yourself in trouble with your speech?

For further study.

Look up the following verses. In what ways does the tongue cause us to stumble in what we say?

Proverbs 6:16-17

Proverbs 12:18-19

Proverbs 15:4

3. James uses several word pictures for the tongue. Write down each one and describe how this word picture relates to what we say.

Verse	Word Picture(s) Described	How does this idea relate to the “tongue?”
v. 3		
v. 4		
v. 5		
v. 7-8a		
v. 8b		
v. 11		
v. 12		

4. APPLICATION

From the above chart, which image(s) stand out to you the most? Why?

5. Read John 8:44.
- a. How is Satan described?

- b. How does this verse help you better understand James 3:6, 7?

6. APPLICATION

James describes the tongue as setting on fire the course of life. How have you seen this in your own life? Can you think of a time when words caused you great harm? When your words hurt others?

Day 4: JAMES 3:3-12, continued

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 3:7, 8.

1. What can be tamed by humans? (James 3:7)

2. What cannot be tamed by us? (James 3:8)

3. Who will give us power to control what we say? (Galatians 5:16)

4. How is the tongue described in verse 8?

5. APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to tame your tongue?

6. Read James 3:9-12.

a. What is the problem that James describes in verse 10?

b. How do the metaphors James uses in verses 11 and 12 help you understand this problem further?

7. Read Matthew 12:34 and how does this connect to James' teaching in this chapter?

8. APPLICATION

Take a moment and examine your heart. Are your words a blessing or a curse? Take some time to pray a blessing over someone you have previously spoken against.

For further study:

Read Romans 7:14-25. How do these verses enhance your understanding of James 3:8? How do they give you hope as you wrestle with your desire to tame your tongue?

Day 5: JAMES 3:13-18

What verse or idea has most stood out to you in Chapter 3?

b. Describe a situation where you have seen this kind of wisdom on display.

5. APPLICATION

In what areas of life do you possess wisdom? In what area(s) do you need to grow?

6. Read James 3:18. What will be the reward for those who make peace?

7. Are peacemakers active or passive? Explain.

8. How is verse 18 a summary of the ideas in chapter 3?

9. APPLICATION

Is there anyone in your life with whom you need to make peace? Are there any events from your life with which you need to make peace?

For further study:

What does Jesus say about peacemakers in Matthew 5:9?

WEEK FIVE: CHAPTER 4

Personal Study

Day 1: Overview of James 4

Copy the Memory Verse for the Week. James 4:10

1. Read through the entire fourth chapter of James 2-5 times.

a. What repeated words or phrases do you notice?

b. Do you notice any themes?

c. What questions does the text raise for you?

- d. What does this text tell you about God?

Day 2: JAMES 4:1-6

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 4:10.

1. Read James 4:1. What was the cause of fights and quarrels?

2. According to James 4:2, what are the passions at war within us?

3. APPLICATION

What is something you desire but do not have? What dangers does your desire pose if you pursue it with the wrong motives?

4. According to James 4:2, 3, what two things explain why don't we have the things we want? What does the second mean?

5. According to James 4:4, can you be a friend of the world and a friend of God? Why or why not? What does it mean to be a friend of the world?

6. How does James 4:4 tie in with what James previously said in James 1:27?

7. APPLICATION

We live in the world but James specifically tells us not to be a friend of the world. In what ways do we live as friends of the world?

Day 3: JAMES 4:6-10

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 4:10

1. Whom does God oppose? Why do you think this is?

2. To whom does God give grace?

3. Look up the definition: HUMBLE / HUMILITY

4. What do you learn about the humility of Christ in Philippians 2:5-8?

5. APPLICATION

Would those who really know you describe you as proud or humble? How can you learn from the example of Christ and walk in humility?

6. Look up the definition: SUBMIT

7. What do you learn about the submission of Jesus in Mark 14:35-36?

8. What promise or encouragement can we take from from James 4:7. What do you think it means to resist the devil?

9. What does James 4:8 mean? Is God ever far away? What is James talking about?

10. According to verses 8 and 9, what does it look like to humble yourself before God? When should we do these things and why?

11. According to James 4:10, what will God do when we humble ourselves?

12. APPLICATION

Spend some time in prayer. Draw near to God with humility. Confess and repent of sin in your life. Allow the Lord to lift you up.

Day 4: JAMES 4: 11-12

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 4:10

1. What is the first instruction in James 4:11?

2. To whom is James speaking? Against whom are they speaking evil?

3. According to James 4:11, in what two ways do we judge the law? What do you think he means by “judge the law”?

4. APPLICATION

Have you ever had a brother or sister in Christ speak evil against you? What was the outcome? Have you ever spoken evil against a fellow brother or sister in Christ? What was the outcome?

5. Read Matthew 22:37-40. What two commandments fulfill the law?

First:

Second:

6. According to James: 4:12, who is the Lawgiver and Judge?

7. APPLICATION

What are areas of life that tend to make you judgmental? Why?

For further study.

Read Romans 13:8-10.

How do these verses enhance your understanding of James 4?

Day 5: JAMES 4:13-17

What verse or idea has most stood out to you in Chapter 4?

1. What specific attitude is James addressing in this section?

2. According to James 4:13-14, why must we be careful in making our plans?

3. Why does James describe our life in this way?

4. Read James 1:9-11. Do you see a connection between these passages?

5. How does this specific teaching connect to this chapter as a whole?

6. APPLICATION

Is it wrong to make plans for the future? Why or why not? Is there a time when planning ahead has led you to sin?

7. According to James 4:17, what is one time when we can be sure we have sinned?

8. What does this verse mean?

9. APPLICATION

Has there been a time that you knew the right thing to do and failed to do it? What happened? Spend time confessing and asking God to help you do the right thing next time.

For further study.

Read John 6:38-40. What does Jesus say is the will of the Father?

WEEK SIX: CHAPTER 5

Personal Study

Day 1: Overview of James 5

Copy the Memory Verse for the Week. James 5:16

1. Read through the entire fifth chapter of James 2-5 times.
 - a. What repeated words or phrases do you notice?

b. Do you notice any themes?

c. What questions does the text raise for you?

d. What does the text tell you about God?

Day 2: JAMES 5:1-5

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 5:16

1. To whom is James talking in verse 1?
2. Once again, James addresses the rich. What are his specific concerns in this address (v. 1-5)?
3. Look up the following verse and note what Jesus says about being rich.

Matthew 6:19-21

How does this connect to James teaching in chapter 5?

4. APPLICATION

Have you ever been cheated out of something that was owed? What can we learn about the power that comes with wealth and how God expects us to use it from this teaching by James? What responsibilities do we have as a result of this teaching and in what areas can we live them out in our lives?

For further study.

What else does Jesus say about being rich?

Luke 12:16-21

Luke 14:12-14

Luke 21:1-4

How do Jesus' teachings in Luke match with James' teaching?

Day 3: JAMES 5:7-12

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 5:16

1. Look up the definition: PATIENT

2. Why would James instruct his audience to be patient?

3. How is patience a remedy for the attitudes and actions described in James 5:2-6?

4. How is the farmer an example of patience?

5. APPLICATION

Are there things you are waiting on right now? What are you experiencing as you wait? How can this teaching from James be applied to your situation?

6. According to verse 11, who is blessed? Why?

7. How did Job persevere? (Job 1:22 and Job 2:20). What does the steadfastness of Job reveal about James teaching on patience?

8. Why does James say not to take an oath?

9. How does this relate to what we learned in James 3 about the tongue?

10. APPLICATION

Do you follow through when you say you will do something? Are you faithful in your promises to your family, friends, and coworkers?

For further study.

Read Matthew 5:33-37 and 12:36-37.

What did Jesus say about taking an oath?

Day 4: JAMES 5:13-18

Write the Memory Verse for the Week. James 5:16

1. James rebuked his readers for the way they used their tongues to slander, boast, deny, fight, condemn, grumble, and swear. In contrast, what does he say we should do with our tongue in verses 13-16?
2. How does a prayer of faith save a sick person? Does James mean that we should expect faithful prayer to always result in healing?
3. Read Luke 5:17-25. What did Jesus do? How is this related to faith?
4. Read James 5:16. Why do we need to confess our sins to one another?

5. APPLICATION

Is there someone in your life to whom you can confess your sins? If so, how has this helped you? If not, why not?

6. What type of person has great power in their prayers?

7. In verse 17, whom does James reference from the Old Testament?

8. What did that person do?

9. APPLICATION

Reflect on your prayer life. What do you pray for? What do you love about prayer? What do you find frustrating about prayer?

For further study.

How is confession related to last week's lesson in James 4:6-10?

Read Romans 3:10-24 and 4:5.

What do these verses say about who we are?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Was Elijah any more righteous than us?

How can this encourage you in your prayer life?

Day 5: JAMES 5:19-20

What verse or idea has most stood out to you in Chapter 5?

1. According to verse 19, can you wander from the truth? What do you think wandering from the truth means?
2. Can you be brought back? How so? What does it mean to be brought back to the truth?
3. How can you turn a sinner from the error of his way? Examine 1 Peter 4:8 to help with your answer.
4. What do you think James means by “save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sin?”

5. APPLICATION

**Have you ever wandered from the truth? Who or what brought you back?
How can you keep yourself from wandering? (See Galatians 6:7-9)**

APPENDIX: FULL TEXT OF JAMES (ESV)

James 1 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 2 English Standard Version (ESV)

2 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

James 3 English Standard Version (ESV)

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 4 English Standard Version (ESV)

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to

mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

James 5 English Standard Version (ESV)

5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you.² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days.⁴ Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one

another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back,²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.





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