

THE BOOK OF  
JAMES

ὑπὸ τοῦ νόμου ὡς παραβάται. 10 ὅστις γὰρ ὅλον τὸν νόμον τηρήσῃ, πταισῇ δὲ ἐνί, γέγονε πάντων ἔνοχος. 11 ὁ γὰρ εἰπὼν μὴ μοιχεύσῃς, εἶπε καὶ μὴ φονεύσῃς· εἰ δὲ οὐ μοιχεύσῃς, φονεύσῃς δέ, γέγονας παραβάτης νόμου. 12 οὕτω λαλεῖτε καὶ οὕτω ποιεῖτε, ὡς διὰ νόμου ἐλευθερίας μέλλοντες κρίνεσθαι· 13 ἢ γὰρ κρίσις ἀνέλεος τῶ μὴ ποιήσαντι ἔλεος· κατακαυχᾶται ἔλεος κρίσεως. 14 Τί τὸ ὄφελος, ἀδελφοί μου, ἐὰν πίστιν λέγη





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Week One</b>	<b>James 1:1-11</b>	<b>Trials</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Week Two</b>	<b>James 1:12-18</b>	<b>Temptations</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Week Three</b>	<b>James 1:19-27</b>	<b>Doers of the Word</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Week Four</b>	<b>James 2:1-13</b>	<b>Sin of Partiality</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Week Five</b>	<b>James 2:14-26</b>	<b>Faith &amp; Works</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Week Six</b>	<b>James 3:1-12</b>	<b>Taming the Tongue</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Week Seven</b>	<b>James 3:13-18</b>	<b>Godly Wisdom</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Week Eight</b>	<b>James 4:1-10</b>	<b>Quarrels</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Week Nine</b>	<b>James 4:11-12</b>	<b>Judging</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Week Ten</b>	<b>James 4:13-17</b>	<b>Brevity of Life</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Week Eleven</b>	<b>James 5:1-6</b>	<b>Fading of Riches</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Week Twelve</b>	<b>James 5:7-12</b>	<b>Patience</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Week Thirteen</b>	<b>James 5:13-20</b>	<b>Power of Prayer</b>	<b>171</b>



## WEEK 1

# TRIALS

## James 1:1-11

---

The book of James was most likely written by the brother of Jesus, a leader of the Jerusalem church, a man known as “James the Just.” The book of James is written primarily to Jewish Christians. It is clear from the letter that people are not living the way they should. James uses the letter to impart wisdom about how to live out one’s faith in the context of culture, worldliness, and even divisions within the church. The goal is to be doers of the word and not just hearers of the word, truly submitting one’s life to following Jesus.

The first portion of the book is about trials and how to live in light of them. James helps believers understand how to not be discouraged in trials and how to let trials drive us to the Lord, even as we are able to find joy in the midst of struggles.

## Memory Verse

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

—James 1:2-3

Create a system for memorizing the weekly memory verse as a family. Then have each family member write this week’s memory verse on an index card and the Scripture reference on the back. Then keep the card in a place where it will be seen and can be studied multiple times throughout the day together.

Continue to do this week after week. Then, once you have several verses memorized, you can lay the cards with the reference side up and quote the verse by memory. You can also play a matching game with the cards once you get a few weeks into the study.

---

Scan the QR code to find some games and activities to help with Scripture memory for families on the God Venture website.



You can also use the Bible Memory App to help you memorize the verses in this study. Scan one of the QR codes below to download the app.



Apple



Android

## Family Activity

The word “Ebenezer” comes from two Hebrew words that together mean “stone of help.” Read 1 Samuel 7:12. Samuel set up the stone as a memorial to remember God’s help in defeating the Philistines.

Think of a hard time that you walked through together as a family. How did you see God’s faithfulness and grace in that time? Write on a stone something to help you remember that trial and how God met you and display it in your home.

## Icebreaker

When have you been through a recent trial where you saw good come out of it?

# Day One

---

Read or listen to the book of James in its entirety. It takes about 15–20 minutes to read the entire book, depending on your reading speed.

**1. What do you observe about the book? Write down anything that comes to mind as you read.**

**2. Jot down any repeated words.**

**3. Write down the titles or names of God that appear in the book. Refer to the Attributes of God page at the end of the study.**

**4. Write down any themes as you read through the book.**

---

Scan the QR code to see the Bible Project's video on the book of James.



5. What do you think is the central theme of the book?

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time writing below to the Lord about your hope for this study. Ask Him to grow your knowledge of Him through this study and that the result would be worship of Him.

## Apply the Word

Write a one sentence summary of the book of James. Use that summary to invite someone to do the study with you.

# Day Two

---

Read James 1:1-11 several times. Then read it in at least one different translation. (These can be found on the Bible App on your phone or websites such as biblegateway.com). Our goal at the beginning of each section will be to observe as much detail as possible from the text. We will look for ways to apply what we have read on other days of the week, but for today, be a detective looking only for what the author says. Each week there will be suggestions of what to look for in the margin to get you started, but there is much more to be found. Really dig in and have fun writing out as many details as possible in the space provided.

First and foremost, we should look to Scripture for what it tells us about God. The Bible is His story. Anytime you notice a title or an attribute of God, and add any insights you gain about Him to your list of observations. Look also for attributes of people and how they relate to God, listing them as well.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- How the author and recipients of the letter are described
- Repeated words
- Attributes of God
- Metaphors/figures of speech



## Prayer and Reflection

Praise God for what this passage reveals about who He is. Ask Him to help you understand and more clearly see His attributes on display in your life.



## Apply the Word

Write James 1:2-3 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Three

---

Read James 1:1-2.

**1. Read Galatians 1:19 and Acts 15:12-21. What do these passages tell us about James as a person?**

**2. What is the significance of James identifying himself as a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ?**

**3. Who is James writing to? Write down everything you know about the twelve tribes.**

**4. What is the first command in v. 2? Look up this verse in other translations and note what it says.**

---

The twelve tribes in the Dispersion refers to the tribes of Israel who were scattered throughout the region after the defeat of Israel and Judah by the Assyrians and the Babylonians.

5. Write v. 2 in your own words.

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:2-3 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

When you are in the midst of hard trials, it can seem impossible to consider it joy. We know that without the Lord, there is no joy. And yet, God invites us to have joy even in our trials as we rely on Him. Ask Him to comfort you, to remind you of His nearness all the time, and to return to you the joy only found in Him.

## Apply the Word

Pray for people around the world who are in the middle of a trial or are being persecuted for their faith. Pray that the Lord will be near to them and that they will find joy in Him even in the midst of their trial.

# Day Four

---

Read James 1:3-4.

**1. What is the reason given in v. 3 that we are to count trials as joy?**

**2. Define “steadfastness.” How would a trial produce steadfastness in you?**

**3. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. What does this passage say a trial can do to your faith? How can that lead to joy?**

**4. How would being steadfast lead to “being perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”?**

5. Does “lacking in nothing” mean that we will get everything we want in life? What do you think James means? Read 1 Peter 1:3–5 for information on our inheritance from God.

## Going Deeper

When James says “perfect,” he means mature. How does steadfastness (in a trial) lead to us being mature and complete? Read Philipians 3:12–14.

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:2–3 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Ask the Lord to make you mature and complete, even if it means facing a trial. Confess if you long for comfort over spiritual maturity. Ask God to grow your desire for Him over all other desires.

## Apply the Word

Who do you know that is currently walking through a trial? Stop and pray for them, asking the Lord to use that trial to move them toward Him. Then reach out to that person and let them know you have prayed for them.

# Day Five

---

Read James 1:5-11.

**1. James uses “if” to indicate a conditional clause in v. 5. What is the condition, the action to take, and the result of following it?**

**2. What metaphor does Paul use in v. 6 and how does it help demonstrate his point?**

**3. Paul contrasts a person who asks in faith and a person who doubts. List all of the differences between the two.**

**4. James compares two kinds of people in vv. 9-11. List all of the details about the two.**

5. If a man is lowly, how can he “boast in his exaltation?” What exaltation is being referred to here? Refer to Ephesians 2:4-7.

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:2-3 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Why do we need wisdom in our trials? Spend time with the Lord, asking Him in faith to give you wisdom. Spend time confessing when you have looked to other things besides the Lord for wisdom. Then spend time praising Him that He is the giver of wisdom.

## Apply the Word

Which of the two people do you relate to in this passage? Discuss with someone else why you relate to that particular person. Ask them to help you see ways that you need to humble yourself.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 1:1-11.

Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.

How might knowing these truths about God change how you respond to facing trials?

How will what you learned this week alter:

Your prayers?

Your actions?

Your words?

Your thinking?

What is your biggest takeaway from this week?

What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?

## Jesus in This Section

As we think about our own trials, we should be reminded that Jesus endured horrific trials through His life on earth. The very purpose of Jesus coming to earth was to suffer and die in order that we may be reconciled to God.

According to John Piper, “The suffering of the utterly innocent and infinitely holy Son of God in the place of utterly undeserving sinners to bring us to everlasting joy is the greatest display of the glory of God’s grace that ever was, or ever could be” (from an article titled “The Suffering of Christ and the Sovereignty of God”).

It is through Jesus’ sufferings that we are brought to God to know His grace and abundant love for us.

It is also through our suffering that we learn to rely on Jesus. As we rely on Jesus, we learn to be steadfast in our trust of Jesus. And it is through the perfect life of Jesus that we are seen as righteous. Not on our own merit, but through our trust of Jesus. Jesus the perfect one, through His death, takes the penalty of our sin, and in turn, gives us His perfection.

# TEMPTATIONS

## James 1:12-18

---

Early Jewish Christians faced trials like persecution and poverty in the Roman Empire. James emphasized perseverance in faith, distinguishing between growth through trials and temptations from human desires.

### Memory Verse

“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

—James 1:18

### Family Activity

Create a family “Faith Journal” where everyone writes or draws about their experiences with trials and how they see God working in their lives.

### Icebreaker

Share a time when you faced a challenge and saw God’s faithfulness or blessings through it.

# Day One

---

Take your time with James 1:12–18. Read it slowly, reflecting on each word. Each week we will add new tools to our tool box so that our ability to observe continues to grow stronger. Try to use as many tools as you can every week. As we did last week, start by listing any names and attributes of God as well as attributes of people and how they relate to God.

This week, begin also to list anything that is confusing or difficult for you to understand. As you ponder the questions you have about the text, resist the urge to look at commentaries or the notes in your study Bible to find the answers. Instead, try the following to gain clarity: read it in different translations and use a dictionary to clarify the meanings of words. Then use what you have learned to paraphrase the text into your own words. It's okay not to understand everything right away. Patiently sit with your questions, asking God for wisdom and allowing the Holy Spirit time to work in your heart.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Names and attributes of God
- Metaphors/figures of speech
- Lists/sequence of events
- Strong descriptive verbs

## Prayer and Reflection

How can you better recognize and resist temptations that arise from your desires? Spend time in prayer, asking God to strengthen your faith during times of temptation. Reflect on your struggles, identify temptations, and pray for guidance.

## Apply the Word

Write James 1:18 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

Read James 1:12.

**1. What is James saying in v. 12?**

**2. Why should we stay “steadfast under trial”? Read Romans 5:3-5.**

**3. What has God promised to those who love Him?**

**4. What do you think that promise means?**

**5. What does it mean to love God in the context of enduring trials, and how can our actions reflect this love? Read John 14:15.**

## **Memory Verse**

Write James 1:18 below.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

In what ways have you experienced trials in your life? How have those experiences shaped your understanding of perseverance and God's promises? Reflect on how these trials have influenced your love for God and your faith journey.

## **Apply the Word**

Share your trials with a trusted friend or mentor for support, knowing that as you persevere, you grow in faith and draw closer to the crown of life God promises.

# Day Three

---

Read James 1:13-15.

**1. Look up and write down the definitions of temptation and testing. What is the difference between the two words? Reread James 1:2-4.**

**2. Compare James 1:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:13. What relationship do you see between God's role in temptation and His promise in 1 Corinthians?**

**3. James 1:13 states that God cannot be tempted and does not tempt anyone. What does that reveal about God's character?**

**4. What does "each person is tempted when they are drawn away by their own desire" mean?**

## 5. What is the progression of sin outlined in v. 15?

### Memory Verse

Write James 1:18 below.

### Prayer and Reflection

What excuses have you made for giving in to sinful temptations? Have you ever tried to shift the blame to avoid responsibility? Take a moment to confess, ask God for forgiveness, and accept responsibility.

### Apply the Word

Remember, while God may test your faith, He does not tempt you. Reflect on the trials in your life today. Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to reveal any areas where you might be tempted to turn away from Him. How can you draw closer to Him instead?

# Day Four

---

Read James 1:16-17.

**1. What is James warning us against?**

**2. Where does every good and perfect gift come from?**

**3. Have you been tempted to attribute God's gifts to something or someone else? Explain your answer.**

**4. What does the description "Father of lights" say about who God is?  
Read John 1:4-5.**

**5. In your own words, describe what "no variation or shadow due to change" means.**



## Going Deeper

How does God's unchanging nature impact your understanding of His promises and faithfulness in your life?



## Memory Verse

Write James 1:18 from memory below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Every good and perfect gift comes from God, our unchanging Father. How does this truth influence your gratitude and trust in Him? Take some time to reflect by singing songs of praise, and/or praying with thankfulness and gratitude.



## Apply the Word

Keep a list where you write down at least one good gift you notice today, whether it's a blessing in your relationships, provisions, or moments of joy.

# Day Five

---

Read James 1:18.

- 1. What is revealed about the role of God's will in our spiritual rebirth? (See Ephesians 1:4-5.)**
- 2. What are firstfruits? (See Leviticus 23:10 and Proverbs 3:9-10.)**
- 3. What does James mean when he calls his brothers a kind of firstfruits of creation? (See 1 Corinthians 15:20-21.)**
- 4. According to v. 18 how do we become a firstfruit? (See Romans 1:16.)**
- 5. Reread vv. 12-18. Contrast the birth of sin to the gift God brings forth.**



## Going Deeper

James' original audience would've been very familiar with the Feast of Firstfruits, a yearly festival when the Israelites set apart the first and best portion of their harvest as an offering of gratitude for God's provision. How would identifying believers as firstfruits encourage them to remain steadfast under trials?



## Memory Verse

Write James 1:18 from memory below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Read Psalm 103. Then pray it or sing it to the Lord.



## Apply the Word

How does understanding your identity as a “firstfruit” in James 1:18 shape your perspective on your purpose and calling in life, and how can you live out that identity today?

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 1:12-18.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God change how you face temptation?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus is present through the themes of perseverance, trials, and the gift of new life. The blessing for those who endure trials reflects Jesus' own perseverance through suffering. God is described as the "Father of lights," emphasizing His unchanging nature, which is fulfilled in Jesus, the Light of the World (John 8:12). Additionally, being brought forth by the "word of truth" aligns with Jesus as the Word made flesh (John 1:14). Together, these themes point to Jesus as the source of hope, transformation, and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises.



# DOERS OF THE WORD

## James 1:19-27

---

As James begins his letter, he urges believers to respond to trials with wisdom and patience, avoiding impulsive reactions common in a society marked by persecution, injustice, and internal conflicts. He addresses the issue of hypocrisy, encouraging believers to live out their faith through actions, which reflect the teachings of Jesus. James' call for active faith and moral integrity was vital for the early church in their mission to offer hope and transformation to the world.

In vv. 26-27, James makes a contrast between worthless religion and the type of religion God desires. Imagine you are staying in someone's home and they offer you a gorgeous bed. The pillows are fluffy and the comforter looks luxurious. After a long day, you can't wait to climb in. You put on your pajamas and excitedly throw back the covers only to find that their cat has thrown up in the sheets. Yuck! The bed has been rendered useless because your host has paid careful attention to the outside appearance, but has failed to consider if the inside is clean. That is what a person is like who thinks they are religious, but whose character doesn't resemble Jesus.

## Memory Verse

**“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”**

—James 1:22

## Family Activity

Before Serve Day, gather your family to discuss the importance of serving others as a reflection of your faith. Emphasize how this aligns with James 1:19-27, particularly the call to be doers of the word.

Review the different service projects and involve your family in selecting one that resonates with everyone. Spend time preparing for the day as a family. Use this time to discuss the impact of your service and how it reflects God's love. Pray that the Lord will give you His heart and eyes to love and see people the way that He does.

On Serve Day, work together as a family unit. Encourage each member to take on specific roles based on their strengths and interests, fostering teamwork and collaboration.

## Icebreaker

What's one habit or action you've tried to develop to help you live out your faith more actively?

# Day One

---

Read James 1:19–27 several times with a hunger to know what God’s word has to say. As always, there are suggestions of what to look for in the margin, but there is much more to discover. As we did in previous weeks, begin by looking for attributes of God and man. Then note any questions you have about the text, resisting the urge to look at commentaries first. Ask God for wisdom. Use different translations, definitions, and paraphrasing to help you gain clarity.

Next get in the habit of being a good detective that looks for the small details. For example, the word “if” only has two letters, but it packs a big punch. Sometimes it appears with its sister “then” and sometimes it doesn’t. The word “if” appears twice in this passage. This is a conditional clause; it points to an action that the person may or may not be doing, followed by the result of the action. Add any insights you gain to your list of observations.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Contrasts
- How the reader is described
- Commands (actions, verbs)
- Metaphors/figures of speech



## Prayer and Reflection

As you sit before the Lord, reflect on your spiritual journey. In what areas do you see the need for growth in living out God's word? Write down specific actions you can take to become more of a doer of the word.



## Apply the Word

Write James 1:22 below and begin to commit it to memory. Continue reviewing the previous memory verses as well.

# Day Two

---

Read James 1:19–21.

1. What are the key commands given in these verses?

2. Why would the “anger of man” not produce the “righteousness of God”? Read Ephesians 4:26–27.

3. James uses “therefore” to show that one idea is a result of another idea. What are the two ideas he relates using the word?

\_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does the term “implanted word” refer to? Read Psalm 119:11, Romans 10:17, and Hebrews 4:12.

---

The righteousness of God in the Bible refers to God’s perfect moral nature, His faithfulness to His promises, and His just actions. It encompasses His holiness, justice, and the way He governs the world according to His divine standards.

5. How would having a meek attitude help you better receive and apply God's word in your life?

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:22 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Ask the Lord to search your heart and confess any areas where you are slow to hear, quick to speak, and quick to anger. As you pray, ask the Lord to show you areas in your life where you need to cultivate meekness. Write down your insights and seek His guidance in receiving His word more fully.

## Apply the Word

Practice active listening today. Make a conscious effort to truly listen to others before responding. Ask the Lord to help you pause before responding, ask clarifying questions, control your reactions, and reflect on your responses.

# Day Three

---

Read James 1:22-25.

**1. What is the difference between being a hearer of God's word and a doer of God's word?**

**2. What imagery does James use to describe the person who hears the word, but does not act on it?**

**3. What does the term "deceiving yourselves" suggest about the understanding of faith and action in v. 22?**

**4. What does James refer to as the "perfect law, the law of liberty" in this passage? For more insight, read John 14:15 and Matthew 22:37-40.**

**5. What promise does James make about those who look into the perfect law, who walk in obedience, and persevere?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:22 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

What areas of your life do you find challenging when it comes to being a doer of the word? As you sit before the Lord in prayer, reflect on the imagery of looking in a mirror. What aspects of your life or character does God's word reveal that need attention or change?

## Apply the Word

As you go about your day, take moments to pause and reflect on how you can apply God's word in your actions. Before making decisions or responding to situations, ask yourself: "What does Scripture say about this?" and commit to being a doer of the word in your interactions and choices.

# Day Four

---

Read James 1:26-27.

**1. In this passage, there is a contrast between two types of religion. Why is the first one worthless?**

**2. Read Amos 5:11-12 and 21-24. During this time, God's people thought they were religious because they were observing God's commands for feasts and offerings. Why was God angry with them?**

**3. A bridle is the headgear used to control a horse. Why do you think James used this vivid metaphor?**

---

Scan the QR code to read the article "Lay Aside the Fear of Legalism: The Wells of Grace in Godly Discipline" by Sarah Walton from the website Desiring God.



---

"The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

—Luke 6:45

**4. What kind of damage can an unbridled tongue do?**

**5. Compare verses 22 and 26. How can we deceive ourselves and our hearts?**

 **Going Deeper**

Read Galatians 5:24-25. What is the role of the Holy Spirit and what is the responsibility of the individual in taming the tongue?



## Memory Verse

Write James 1:22 from memory below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Our words flow from our hearts. Prayerfully consider some of the harmful words you may be in the habit of thinking that spill out of your mouth. As you do, ask your loving Father to replace any lies you have believed with truth. Use the following verse as a guide: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).



## Apply the Word

Look for an opportunity to ask someone else about their religion. Be willing to share about yours if they seem open to listening. Come ready to discuss with your group.

---

# Day Five

---

“Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.”

—Psalm 68:5

Read James 1:26–27.

**1. How is the second type of religion that is described different from the first?**

---

“...James calls our attention to another important dimension of the faith: the good works that flow out of genuine faith. Saving faith will eventually result in a life changed in tangible ways, such as how we spend money, what we say about other people, and how we face trials.”

—The Baker

Illustrated Bible

Handbook,

J. Daniel Hays and J.

Scott Duvall, p. 925.

**2. Orphans and widows would have been vulnerable during this time because only men could own property. Without a male family member to care for them, they would’ve most likely been destitute. Because of this, what would the verb “visit” entail? Use different translations to help you.**

**3. Earlier James addressed the recipients of his letter as dear brothers and sisters and here he calls God our Father. Why are these tender references especially meaningful when discussing the care of orphans and widows?**

**4. James encourages believers to be in the world, actively caring for others, yet keeping oneself unstained from it. According to 1 John 1:5–10, how is this possible?**

5. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How do these verses connect to James 1:26-27? Compare James 1:27 to Hebrews 7:26. Read in different translations. What similar words are used to describe true religion and Jesus. How are they related?

## Memory Verse

Write James 1:22 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Thank God your Father, remembering the many times He has tenderly cared for you. Ask Him to give you a passion to serve others, especially your brothers and sisters in need.

## Apply the Word

Is God stirring your heart toward a specific serving opportunity? Do you need to make any changes to better honor Him with the time, spiritual gifts, and resources He has given you? Don't delay in obeying. Consider ways your small group might serve together as well and come ready to discuss when you meet. Make a plan of action and hold each other accountable.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 1:19–27.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God motivate you to actively apply what you learn from the Bible?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

In James 1:19–27, Jesus is central to the message about listening and obeying God’s word. Jesus demonstrated being quick to listen and slow to speak, engaging with others with love and wisdom. He also emphasized the importance of acting on His words, as seen in Matthew 7:24–27, where the wise builder puts Jesus’ teachings into practice. Through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live out these principles, helping us become doers of the word.

Religion is pure and undefiled only when it is by faith in Jesus. Religion based on anything else is worthless. Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God. He came into the world, yet was unstained by it. Everything He said and did was a perfect example of how to live without sin. Our hearts are radically changed as we abide in Him, resulting in words and actions that reflect His good character to others.



# SIN OF PARTIALITY

## James 2:1-13

---

James continues his letter by describing a behavior not befitting God's beloved people. Imagine there is a great king renowned throughout the land for his kindness and generosity. He rescues a poor young girl, lovingly raises her in the palace as his daughter, and promises that she will inherit his immense fortune and royal title one day. The princess, however, is stingy and cruel. She does not share her father's gracious manner and only pays attention to others when she thinks it might benefit herself. This is what it is like when God shows us mercy, yet we treat others with partiality.

## Memory Verse

*"My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory."*

—James 2:1

## Family Activity

Play "I spy" with your family, but instead of looking around the room to have them guess an object, describe how you have noticed one of them being kind or generous recently or how you have seen them growing in their faith, e.g. I spy someone who washed the dishes yesterday without being asked.

## Ice Breaker

Describe a time when you received VIP treatment or a time when you were snubbed.

# Day One

---

Read or listen to James 2:1-13 several times. Marinate in the beauty of God's word, observing as many details as possible. For now, ask the simple question, "What does it say?" God's word is alive and active. Continue to use the observation skills you have been developing in past weeks, asking God to show you new things every time you read.

Notice that James quotes other Bible verses in this section. When you notice the Bible quoting itself, look up the verse in its original context and other places it is quoted throughout the Scriptures. You will often find cross references listed at the bottom of the page or in the margin of your Bible. List all of your observations in the space provided.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Conditional clauses (if/then)
- A name for Jesus
- Contrasts
- Repeated words



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend some time in awe of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. Reflect on who He is and what He has done on our behalf. He is worthy of our faith.



## Apply the Word

Write James 2:1 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

---

“For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

—1 Samuel 16:7b

---

In James’ time, to ask someone to sit down at your feet was to suggest that they take the place of a servant.

Read James 2:1-4.

**1. James writes to fellow believers calling them his brothers. What point from chapter one is he continuing to emphasize to them?**

**2. God’s glory is His measureless power and splendor. How is the Lord of glory a fitting title for Jesus? Read John 1:14, and Hebrews 1:3.**

**3. List several synonyms for partiality.**

**4. James describes a scenario from his day. What would be a similar example of showing partiality in church today?**

**5. If we show partiality, then what is the result? What does v. 4 say we have become?**



## Going Deeper

Read Psalm 96:10-13 and Matthew 7:1-5. Why is God alone the perfect judge?



## Memory Verse

Write James 2:1 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

God is not partial. He welcomes all people into His family by faith. Ask God to show you any prejudices you have toward others and ask Him to change your heart to love people as He does. Use the following verse as a prayer of gratitude for God's radical inclusion of you: "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Galatians 3:26-29).



## Apply the Word

Prayerfully consider who you might include. Is there someone who might really appreciate an invitation to your small group or a social gathering? Don't delay. Reach out today and invite them. As you gather at church, be intentional to get to know someone you may have overlooked before.

---

# Day Three

---

“Blessed are the poor  
in spirit, for theirs  
is the kingdom of  
heaven.”

—Matthew 5:3

---

To dishonor means  
to bring shame or  
disgrace on, to fail to  
observe or respect  
(Oxford English  
Dictionary).

Read James 2:5-7.

**1. James tells his beloved brothers to listen. Reread James 1:22. What does listening also imply?**

**2. Notice the repetition of the words “rich” and “poor”. How is it possible for the poor to be rich?**

**3. Read Mark 12:41-44. How did the poor widow show that she was rich in faith?**

**4. The word “but” points to a contrast. How are James’ brothers treating the poor differently than God does?**

**5. How does James describe the behavior of the rich people of his day?**



## Going Deeper

Read Mark 10:17–31. Who is rich and who is poor in this passage? Why?



## Memory Verse

Write James 2:1 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Thank Jesus that He willingly left heaven and humbled Himself on your behalf. Praise Him for making you rich in faith and an heir to the kingdom.



## Apply the Word

Ask God to show you how you can honor the poor in a tangible way. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Ask Him to give you joy as you serve and give to others.

# Day Four

---

Read James 2:8-11.

This section refers to the royal law and also uses several legal terms. A king is the one who has the authority to decree royal law for the citizens of his kingdom. A judge is the one who has the authority to convict and punish someone or to set them free in a court of law. According to the following verses, God the Father has given Jesus the authority to be both king and judge.

“And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

—Luke 1:32b-33

“For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son...”

—John 5:22

**1. What legal terminology is used in this section?**

**2. Rewrite vv. 8 and 9 in your own words by filling in the blanks below:**

If \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_.

But if \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. James quotes other Scripture in this section. Read Leviticus 19:9-18. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” summarizes this section of the law. Name some of the specific ways God commanded the Israelites to love their neighbors.**

**4. Read Luke 10:25-37. What did Jesus teach about loving your neighbor?**

---

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” is also found in Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, and Galatians 5:14.

**5. Based on vv. 10-11, how are we all guilty of transgressing the Law?**

---

“Do not commit adultery” and “do not murder” are two of the ten commandments found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Jesus taught about them in Matthew 5:21-30, including lust and anger as examples.

## **Memory Verse**

Write James 2:1 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Jesus is the only one who fulfilled the Law perfectly, yet He willingly took the punishment we deserved. Through faith in Him we are saved and not condemned. Use the following verses as a prayer of gratitude to God for His amazing love for you. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

## Apply the Word

Love flows from the source. God loved us first. He is love! We respond to His love by loving Him and loving others. Watch expectantly for God to show you a way to love your neighbor today, either your literal neighbor (the person who lives close by) or figurative neighbor (a person who crosses your path as you go).

# Day Five

---

Read James 2:12-13.

**1. Notice the repetition of the words judged/judgment and mercy. Define judged and mercy.**

**2. Earlier in chapter 2, how were believers judging others?**

**3. Read Matthew 18:21-35. In this parable, what point does Jesus make about mercy?**

**4. In light of God's mercy, what kinds of things should believers say and do? See James 1:25 and 2:12.**

---

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”

—2 Corinthians 2:14

---

Scan the QR code to read a devotion on the difference between mercy and grace by Will Graham from the Billy Graham website.



**5. Verse 13 is a great summary of James' argument of chapter two thus far. Rewrite it in your own words below. Feel free to use definitions and other translations to help you.**

## **Memory Verse**

Write James 2:1 from memory below.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

Spend some time praising God for His mercy toward you and the liberty you have in Christ. Ask Him to help you to use your freedom to love others as He has loved you.

## **Apply the Word**

Pay attention to any judgments you make about others today. Is there someone you have been reluctant to forgive? Ask God to help you forgive them just as He has forgiven you.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 2:1-13.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God affect how you treat others who may be different from you?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus is the Lord of glory, fully God and fully man. He came to preach good news to the poor and to set the captives free. He is both King and Judge over all. He shows no partiality, but extends mercy to all who believe in Him.

# FAITH AND WORKS

## James 2:14–26

---

Faith and action go hand in hand. In James 2:14–26, James challenges believers with a fundamental question: Can faith without works save a person? He argues that actions prove genuine faith, using examples like Abraham and Rahab to illustrate how faith is demonstrated through obedience. This passage reminds us that true faith isn't just about what we say we believe—it's about how we live. While salvation comes through faith alone, that faith should produce good works as evidence of a transformed life in Christ.

### Memory Verse

“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

—James 2:17

### Family Activity

Write various acts of service on slips of paper, e.g., “Encourage someone,” “Help a neighbor,” “Pray for a friend,” “Give to someone in need.” Have family members take turns drawing a slip and acting on it within the next 24 hours.

Gather together and discuss: How did it feel to live out your faith through action? What impact did it have? Read James 2:14–17 and talk about how faith should lead to action.

## Icebreaker

Present different scenarios where someone is in need, e.g., a friend struggling, a neighbor who is sick, a classmate being left out. Ask: What would you do in each situation? How can faith influence your response? Discuss how small acts of kindness reflect faith in action.

# Day One

---

Read James 2:14-26 several times. As you do, thank the Lord that He is always near to you, guiding you, and growing you in wisdom. Remind yourself of things you have looked for in previous weeks and put your observation skills into practice. List all that you discover in the space provided.

Notice James' use of questions in this section. What questions does he ask? What tone do you think he uses when asking them? Look back at the part of James we've already studied. Does he use these questions to repeat or clarify any main points that he has made before? Add these to your list of observations.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Repeated words
- Examples from the Old Testament
- Metaphors/figures of speech
- Conditional clauses (if/then)



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time with the Lord, thanking Him that He transforms us in such a way that our actions flow out of our heart for Him. Ask Him to make you sensitive this week as you dive into His word for any areas that you need to confess. Turn toward Him, allowing Him to work through you.



## Apply the Word

Write James 2:17 below and begin to commit it to memory. Continue reviewing the previous memory verses as well.

# Day Two

---

Read James 2:14-19.

James anticipates an argument, but quickly corrects the thinking/redirects the conversation.

**1. James calls the reader “brother” in this section. What do you think he is trying to communicate to them?**

**2. What question does James ask in v. 14, and why is it important?**

**3. Why do you think James uses the example of someone without food or clothing?**

**4. Why is faith without works dead?**

## 5. How does faith differ from simply believing facts about God?

### Going Deeper

What's the difference between relying on works for salvation and works that are evidence of salvation?

### Memory Verse

Write James 2:17 below.

### Prayer and Reflection

Even demons believe in God, but it's not enough to simply acknowledge God's existence; real faith transforms the way you live. Are you living out your faith in your life? Sit before the Lord and be honest with Him.

### Apply the Word

Write down a difference between transforming faith and empty belief. Identify one area where you need to put faith into action and make a plan to do so.

# Day Three

---

Read James 2:20-24 and Genesis 22:1-18.

**1. Why does James call faith without works “useless”?**

**2. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith by offering up his son Isaac on the altar?**

**3. How was Abraham’s faith “completed” by his works?**

**4. Read Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3. According to these verses, how was Abraham counted as righteous? How are we counted as righteous?**

5. Write v. 24 in your own words.

## Going Deeper

How can we ensure our faith leads to action? Read James 4:7-8.

## Memory Verse

Write James 2:17 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Ask God for the courage to act in faith like Abraham even when you don't see the full picture. Do you see a difference in what you say you believe and how you live? When have you struggled with obedience?

## Apply the Word

Write down an area where you need to trust God and take action.

# Day Four

---

Read James 2:25 and Joshua 2.

**1. Why do you think James uses a Gentile prostitute as an example of faith?**

**2. How did Rahab's actions demonstrate her faith in God?**

**3. What risks did Rahab take in trusting God?**

**4. How did Rahab's faith impact her future? Read Joshua 6:25 and Matthew 1:5.**

## 5. Compare Abraham and Rahab's faith and works.

### Memory Verse

Write James 2:17 from memory below.

### Prayer and Reflection

Rahab wasn't a religious leader or someone with a spotless past, yet she demonstrated real faith through her actions. She believed in God's power and took a risk to protect His people, even when it could have cost her everything. Her faith wasn't just words; it showed up in her choices. Are you in a difficult situation? Ask God for the boldness to trust Him. Remember who God is and thank Him that you can trust Him even when things are hard.

### Apply the Word

What is one bold step of faith you can take this week?

# Day Five

---

Read James 2:26.

**1. To what does James compare faith without works?**

**2. Why do you think James uses this imagery?**

**3. How can you tell when faith is alive and active?**

**4. James 2:26 in NLT says, “just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.” How does this better help you understand this verse?**

**5. How are this week’s verses summarized in v. 26?**

---

The Greek word *pneuma* can mean “breath” or “spirit.”

## Memory Verse

Write James 2:17 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Think about the striking comparison James makes—faith without works is like a body without a spirit. Just as a lifeless body is empty and inactive, faith without action is dead and ineffective. Genuine, living faith moves, acts, and produces change. It's not just something you say you have; it's something that shows up in your daily life. Does your faith move you to action? Spend time with the Lord and ask Him if your actions are reflecting your faith. If not, why not?

## Apply the Word

Identify an area where your faith has been passive and commit to changing it. What are some steps you can take to keep your faith growing and active?

# Wrap-Up

---

Reread James 2:14-26.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God motivate you to live out your faith?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus shows us what it means to glorify God through our works. Throughout His time on earth, He met the needs of the people. He gave selflessly of Himself to love other people. He submitted to the Father's plans. It was through His perfect life, sacrificial death and resurrection that we are justified before God. First Corinthians 6:11 states, "But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." It is only through faith in the work of Jesus that we can become doers of the word, growing in holiness.

# TAMING THE TONGUE

## James 3:1-12

---

Words hold immense power. They can build up or tear down, bless or curse, encourage or destroy. In James 3:1-12, James warns teachers about the dangers of an untamed tongue. He compares the tongue to a small spark that can set an entire forest on fire and a rudder that steers a massive ship. Though small, the tongue wields great influence over our lives and relationships. As followers of Christ, we are often in teaching situations and are called to use our words wisely, speaking life rather than harm. This passage challenges us to reflect on how we speak and the impact our words have on others.

## Memory Verse

“So 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!”

—James 3:5

## Family Activity

Give each family member a small tube of toothpaste and a paper plate. Ask them to squeeze out all the toothpaste onto the plate. Then, challenge them to put the toothpaste back into the tube using only a spoon.

Discuss how this activity relates to our words. Once words are spoken, they cannot be taken back. Read James 3:9-10 together and talk about ways to use words to encourage rather than harm.

## Icebreaker

Share a time when you said something you later regretted.

# Day One

---

Read or listen to James 3:1-12 several times and in at least two translations. Use the skills you've gained so far to make as many observations as possible. Challenge yourself to dig deep.

This section contains many metaphors. When you notice figures of speech, engage your imagination and picture these vivid images in your mind. What is being compared? How are they similar? How does the comparison make James' point clearer? Consider drawing them in the space provided or listing what you discover.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Repeated words
- Attributes of God and man
- If/then (conditional clauses)
- Questions



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time with the Lord, asking Him to give you a clear heart and mind to examine your words. Ask God to grow your desire to honor Him with every word spoken out of your mouth. Ask Him to make you quick to repent when your words do not honor God.



## Apply the Word

Write James 3:5 below and begin to commit it to memory. Continue reviewing the previous memory verses as well.

# Day Two

---

Read James 3:1-6.

**1. James says not many should become teachers. Why would teachers be judged with greater strictness?**

**2. How does James describe the challenge of controlling our speech?**

**3. How does self-control in speech reflect spiritual maturity?**

**4. How does the comparison of our tongue to bits, ship rudders, and forest fires help us understand its influence?**

**5. What kind of destruction can careless words cause and how much more from a teacher? How can the tongue be used for good instead of harm?**

---

A bit is a part of a bridle that is used to control a horse. James used a similar metaphor in James 1:26.



## Going Deeper

Read Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6. What practical steps can you take to control your speech?



## Memory Verse

Write James 3:5 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

James reminds us that we all stumble in many ways, especially with our speech. If we could perfectly control our tongues, we'd be able to control our entire selves! Thinking back to the last several days, what words have you used that did not honor the Lord? Confess before the Lord and ask the Holy Spirit to help you control your tongue and to be mindful of the words you speak today.



## Apply the Word

Write down ways your words have impacted someone recently. Make a list of five encouraging words or phrases you can intentionally say this week.

---

Ask yourself to WAIT:  
Why Am I Talking?

---

Before speaking,  
THINK: ask yourself if  
what you're about to  
say is True, Helpful,  
Inspiring, Necessary,  
and Kind.

# Day Three

---

Read James 3:7-8.

**1. James says every kind of animal has been tamed, but not the tongue. Why do you think controlling speech is so difficult?**

**2. How do our words reveal what is in our hearts? (See Matthew 12:34.)**

**3. How can relying on God help us tame our tongues?**

**4. What role does humility play in guarding our words, especially when we are in teaching situations?**

**5. In what ways can the words of a teacher act like a never-resting, deadly poison to the hearer?**



## Memory Verse

Write James 3:5 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

James calls the tongue a restless evil, full of deadly poison. That might sound harsh, but think about how quickly words can wound or spread negativity. Ask God to help you use words to bless others and to convict you when your words cause harm.



## Apply the Word

Write about a time when you regretted something you said and what you learned from it. Apologize to someone if you have used words carelessly against them.

# Day Four

---

Read James 3:9-10.

**1. How does James describe the contradiction of using our words to both praise God and hurt others? Why would this matter for us when we are teaching others?**

**2. Why do you think it's so easy to say things we later regret?**

**3. What does this passage reveal about God's desire for our words, especially our words as we teach others?**

**4. How does your speech reflect what is in your heart?**

5. How do our reckless words show our posture for God and His creation? What impact would this have on the person you are teaching?

## Memory Verse

Write James 3:5 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

How easily we use the same mouth to both praise God and tear others down. One moment, we are singing worship songs, and the next, we are speaking in anger or gossiping about someone. James makes it clear: This should not be! Our words reveal the state of our hearts, and God desires consistency in how we speak. Spend time with the Father and ask Him where you may need to repent.

## Apply the Word

Identify any habits of speech that don't honor God and write down a plan to change them.

# Day Five

---

Read James 3:11-12.

**1. What examples does James use to illustrate inconsistency in our speech?**

**2. What do fresh water and salt water symbolize in this passage?**

**3. How does this passage challenge you to be more intentional with your words when you are teaching someone?**

**4. Read John 7:37-38 and Luke 6:45. According to these verses, what transforms our speech?**

**5. How does your speech affect your witness to others?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 3:5 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

A fresh spring can't produce salt water, and a fig tree can't bear olives. In the same way, our words reflect the condition of our hearts. If we belong to Christ, our speech should consistently encourage, not harm. Jesus is the living water and when He is in our hearts, our words should be like a fresh spring. Do your words reflect Jesus as the living water in your heart? Sit with the Lord and honestly examine your speech.

## Apply the Word

Write down one area where you struggle with your words and a Bible verse to remind you to speak with wisdom.

# Wrap-Up

---

Reread James 3:1-12.

Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.

How might knowing these truths about God affect how you use your words to glorify Him and encourage others?

How will what you learned this week alter:

Your prayers?

Your actions?

Your words?

Your thinking?

What is your biggest takeaway from this week?

What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus was the perfect teacher. He shows us how to use our words intentionally and thoughtfully to build people up and move them to faith and to do it with respect.

It is through Jesus's death and resurrection that we are made new, capable of using our words to glorify the Lord. Jesus teaches that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34), emphasizing that our words matter. When we abide with Jesus, our words should flow out of that intimate relationship as His Spirit works in and through us.

# GODLY WISDOM

## James 3:13-18

---

James has been writing about how our deeds should reflect our faith. He continues by looking at wisdom and how our actions reflect our “wisdom,” whether it is heavenly or earthly.

### Memory Verse

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”

—James 3:17

### Family Activity

Present different scenarios including wise or unwise choices. Talk about whether the choices were wise or not and how to make wise choices.

### Icebreaker

Who is the most wise, not necessarily the most knowledgeable, person you know? What is it about that person that makes you say they are wise?

---

Scan the QR code to read how Joe Rigney connects the wisdom discussed in James 3 with Jesus coming to earth as the “human embodiment of wisdom from on high,” from the Desiring God website.



---

Scan this QR code to see Wise or Not Wise?, a biblical wisdom game for kids from The Better Mom website.



# Day One

---

Read James 3:13–18 several times. What does it say? List your observations in the space provided. Then read the verses in different translations. What else stands out to you? What connections do you see between this passage and the previous passages you have studied? Add these to your list of observations.

This week, look for words such as like, for, yet, but, so, and, etc. When they are acting as connecting words, they are called conjunctions, and they're easy to overlook. When we study them, we notice they're strategically placed to connect ideas. As an exercise, every time you see the word "but" in this passage, notice what contrasting ideas are presented.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Repeated words
- A conditional clause (if/then)
- A metaphor/figure of speech
- A question

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend some time humbly asking the Lord to reveal any attitudes or behaviors He wants to change in you as you study this week.

## Apply the Word

Write James 3:17 below and begin to commit it to memory. Continue reviewing the previous memory verses as well.

# Day Two

---

Read James 3:13.

**1. Wisdom is not just what we know, but how we live it out. What does James say identifies someone as wise and understanding?**

**2. Look back at James 2:14-18. What similarities do you see between that passage and this verse?**

**3. What examples of good conduct do you see in James 3:17?**

**4. Meekness can also be described as humility or gentleness. How do you see humility or meekness connected to wisdom? (See Proverbs 11:2.)**

## 5. Can true wisdom occur apart from meekness? Why or why not?

### Memory Verse

Write James 3:17 below.

### Prayer and Reflection

Do you consider yourself wise? If so, how are you showing it by your actions? If not, what is keeping you from becoming wise?

### Apply the Word

How would those who know you well say you demonstrate wisdom? Consider asking someone you trust to give you their honest feedback on what they see in your life.

---

Scan the QR code to see John Piper describe what humility is and how having a right view of what Jesus has done for us brings us to a place of humility, from the Desiring God website.



# Day Three

---

Read James 3:14-16.

**1. How are bitter jealousy and selfish ambition opposite of the conduct mentioned in v. 13? Read Philippians 2:3-4.**

**2. James says that if you have bitter jealousy or selfish ambition in your heart, not to boast or be false to the truth. Why would he challenge the reader with these two commands?**

**3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-21 and Jeremiah 9:23-24. What should we boast about?**

**4. James uses strong terms to characterize the wisdom that does not come from above. How do these terms, “earthly, unspiritual, and demonic,” challenge your thinking of the earthly wisdom that might seem acceptable in our culture?**



## **Going Deeper**

**How does Satan use earthly wisdom to deceive even believers?**

**5. How do jealousy and selfish ambition lead to disorder and every vile practice?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 3:17 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Are you holding onto any jealousy or selfish ambition? Where might you be minimizing sin in your life, justifying it according to what might be acceptable in our earthly culture? Take this to the Lord, confess it, and ask Him to help you.

## Apply the Word

Write out Psalm 139:23-24, and consider memorizing it. Pray that God will reveal any grievous way in you and lead you in His everlasting way.

# Day Four

---

Read James 3:17.

Knowledge is understanding facts or information. Wisdom is the ability to apply that knowledge with good insight and judgment. Where does wisdom come from? See also Proverbs 2:6.

**1. Define the words or phrases used to characterize wisdom from above:**

- pure
- peaceable
- gentle
- open to reason
- full of mercy and good fruits
- impartial
- sincere

**2. How do you see these words specifically relating to godly wisdom more than just a list of good character qualities?**

**3. What do you think is the significance of James purposefully saying that wisdom from above is first of all pure?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 3:17 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Colossians 3:2 says “Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” In what areas of your life do you tend to rely on your own knowledge instead of asking God for wisdom? Reflect on the words describing wisdom from above, and consider how these are displayed in your life. Ask God to develop this godly wisdom in you and help you set your mind on things that are above.

## Apply the Word

Look back at James 1:5–8. Pray for opportunities to speak wisdom from God into the life of someone else this week.

# Day Five

---

Reread James 3:13-18.

**1. According to v. 18, what is being sown?**



## Going Deeper

How does James' teaching about wisdom relate to sowing in peace?

**2. Can there be two kinds of wisdom?**

**3. Describe wisdom based on these verses. How would you define the two types of wisdom, and are they both wise?**

**4. Why is it important to guard against pride when seeking wisdom?**

5. Read Proverbs 9:10. How does a deeper understanding of who God is increase our wisdom?

## Memory Verse

Write James 3:17 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Take time to reflect on the character of God. What is one attribute of God that He wants you to focus on today? Spend time praising Him for that attribute. Then ask God to deepen your understanding of who He is so that you will reflect Him as you grow in wisdom.

## Apply the Word

How can you be a peacemaker this week in a relationship or situation? How can you move toward peace in this situation?

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 3:13-18.

Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.

How might knowing these truths about God change how you seek wisdom from Him?

How will what you learned this week alter:

Your prayers?

Your actions?

Your words?

Your thinking?

What is your biggest takeaway from this week?

What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus was the perfect example of His works pointing to the meekness of wisdom. He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but humbled Himself by becoming obedient (Philippians 2:6-8). Because Jesus is from above, He is the embodiment of these characteristics of wisdom. As a member of the Trinity, Jesus is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and sincere. Jesus is Himself our peace (Ephesians 2:14), and so He is also the perfect model of a peacemaker.

# QUARRELS

## James 4:1-10

---

This letter from James is full of practical ways to act on what we know to be true. In chapters one through three, James described the differences between following the ways of the world and following the wisdom from God. In chapter 4, James gives examples of what happens when we follow earthly ways, and then counters with practical steps to return to God's ways.

### Memory Verse

**“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”**

—James 4:7

### Family Activity

Get a medium sized bowl or dish and fill it about halfway with water. Then sprinkle pepper all over the surface. The pepper represents evil, sin or the devil. Place your finger into the top of the water and notice how the pepper gets on your finger and sticks to it. Explain that is how sin is. It can be sticky and will easily entrap you.

Then place a drop of dish soap directly into the pepper or place the drop on the tip of your finger and dip it into the surface of the water. Notice how the pepper flees to the edges. This represents how being covered by God makes the enemy flee. Read James 4:7-8 and discuss how it relates to the exercise.

## Icebreaker

Think about a time when you really wanted to have your own way about something, maybe as a child, or even as an adult. Did you get what you wanted? What did you learn from that experience?

# Day One

---

Read James 4:1-10 several times and in at least one other translation. God's word has the power to transform you. Listen with a heart to obey, but don't jump ahead to how you will apply it or look at any commentaries yet. For now, simply observe what it says.

Begin to pay careful attention to words that are repeated and list them in your observations. This is a big hint from the author; repetition emphasizes the main points that he wants the reader to remember.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Strong commands
- Questions
- Conjunctions (so, because, or, but, etc).
- A reference to another Bible verse



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend some time with the Lord, slowly reading each of these verses. As you read each verse, ask Him to reveal any changes He wants to make in you as you let the truth of His word work in you. Prepare your heart to listen and obey.



## Apply the Word

Write James 4:7 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

Read James 4:1-3.

**1. What reasons does James list as the cause of their quarrels?**



## Going Deeper

How do these reasons reflect the earthly “wisdom” described in James 3:14-16?

**2. What are the passions at work within them?**

**3. What was wrong about how they asked? What is a right way to ask?**

**4. James speaks often about showing faith by actions. What do these actions in vv. 1-3 imply about what they believed about God?**

5. Read Psalm 63:1-5. How does this prayer of David contrast with James' description of the prayers of these Jewish believers?

## Memory Verse

Write James 4:7 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

How do you come to God in prayer? Are you looking for satisfaction in things more than in God alone? Ask God to reveal the truth of your heart. Spend time just enjoying being in the presence of the God of the universe!

## Apply the Word

Do you have any relationships where you are at odds with someone? Consider how this might be the result of you not believing the character of God. Ask God to show you the truth you need to believe about who He is, and take steps this week to make things right with this person.

# Day Three

---

Read James 4:4-6.

**1. James calls his readers out as adulterous people in the ESV. That is a strong accusation. How were the behaviors James described in vv. 1-3 similar to someone committing adultery?**

**2. Read 1 John 2:15-16. How does being a friend of the world make you an enemy of God?**

**3. Verse 5 says “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us.” This verse says God is jealous, and we think of jealousy as a bad thing. But it can’t be bad with God. One definition of jealousy is “intolerant of unfaithfulness or rivalry.” How is God’s jealousy a good thing from God’s perspective?**

**4. Even though we are unfaithful to God, He gives us more grace. What heart attitude is necessary to receive God’s grace?**

**5. Read Proverbs 16:5. What about pride is so detestable to God?**

 **Memory Verse**

Write James 4:7 below.

 **Prayer and Reflection**

Ask God to reveal any pride or unfaithfulness in you. In humility, confess and repent. Praise Him that He is gracious and faithful, even when you are unfaithful. Spend some time meditating on His amazing love for you and His desire to be in fellowship with you.

 **Apply the Word**

As you reflect on how God has given you grace when you haven't deserved it, consider how you can pay it forward to someone else. Who in your life needs to experience unmerited favor? What can you do for them?

# Day Four

---

Read James 4:7.

**1. James 4:7 tells believers to submit themselves to God. How does a Christian submit him or herself to God?**

**2. In v. 7, it says submit therefore. So we know James is telling us to submit based on something he has just said. In v. 6, why does it tell us to submit?**

**3. We submit to God. Then we resist the devil. Why is it important to first submit to God?**

**4. God promises when we resist the devil, the devil will flee. How will this affect any quarrels or fighting? Read also 1 Peter 5:8-11.**

**5. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What do you need to do in order to take your stand against the devil?**

## **Memory Verse**

Write James 4:7 from memory below.

## **Prayer and Reflection**

We are called to submit our whole selves to God. Is there an area of your life that you have not yet submitted? Ask Him to show you, take time to listen for what He reveals, and then in humility, ask Him to be the authority of that part of your life.

## **Apply the Word**

Praise God for His power over evil. Begin a practice of putting on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) to walk daily in His mighty power.

# Day Five

---

Read James 4:8-10.

**1. What does James say will happen when we draw near to God?**

**2. What are some ways you can draw near to God?**

**3. Write the commands James gives in vv. 8-10.**

**4. James' tone changes in the second half of v. 8 and in v. 9. When you look at v. 6 and v. 10, why do you think James addresses them as sinners and double-minded and tells them to turn their joy to gloom?**

**5. Read Luke 14:7-11. What is the upside-down thought in this Luke passage that James also writes in James 4:10?**

---

“James doesn’t just call you to action; he invites you into a life of deeper connection with the divine. The instruction to resist the devil is not just about casting aside immoral actions but involves a conscious choice to align yourself with God. Drawing near to God is about creating an intimate relationship with the Creator who seeks your heart.”

Scan the QR code to see the full article on the BibleStoriesHub.com website.



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:7 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time dwelling on the character and attributes of God. As you reflect on who God is, and who you are, move into a position of humbling yourself before the Lord. Ask God to reveal areas of pride and to help you develop a practice of walking in humility before Him.

## Apply the Word

Consider developing a practice of praying to God in a physical position of humility. This can include bowing, kneeling, lying prostrate on the floor, or even just with open hands.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 4:1-10.

Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.

How might knowing these truths about God change your attitude as you come to Him in prayer?

How will what you learned this week alter:

Your prayers?

Your actions?

Your words?

Your thinking?

What is your biggest takeaway from this week?

What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus perfectly modeled for us what it looks like to walk in power and humility. When He walked on earth, He demonstrated what complete submission to the Father looks like. He yielded to the Father's will above His own. He also demonstrated His power over evil, standing victoriously against the schemes of the devil with the word of God. Jesus modeled drawing near to the Father as He pulled away from others to be with the Father, praying and listening. He knew the importance of time with His Father. And as Jesus lived in humility, identifying with us as humans, God exalted Him to the highest place and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

# JUDGING

## James 4:11-12

---

At the time James was writing this letter, the early Christian community faced internal divisions and conflicts, likely influenced by pride, favoritism, and misunderstandings of true faith. James reminds the early church, and the church today, of the teachings of Jesus and God's ultimate authority.

Our words and attitudes toward others reveal the condition of our hearts. In James 4:11-12, God warns us about the language we use and us taking on the role of judge that belongs only to Him.

### Memory Verse

**“There is only one lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?”**

—James 4:12

### Family Activity

Read James 4:11-12. This week share how someone said something to you that was helpful. It doesn't have to be life-changing, but helpful in some way. It could be an encouragement, good advice, knowledge that you needed, support, or anything else that was meaningful to you. Share that as a family and allow your words to be life-giving to each other this week (Proverbs 15:4).

### Icebreaker

Think of a time when you were quick to judge someone only to later realize you were wrong. How did that experience shape your perspective on grace and humility?

# Day One

---

As you come to spend time in God's word today, picture yourself at a table for two with the Lord. Pause and ask God to make your heart malleable. Read James 4:11-12 aloud several times. Then read it in different translations. Focus on as much detail as possible from the verses. Look for words that are the same and ones that are different in the versions you read.

James had a clear purpose in mind when he wrote this letter. Notice the words that appear in this section that have been emphasized and repeated throughout his letter. What does James really emphasize? What are his main points? Write down any observations that you make.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Attributes of God and people
- Emotion/tone
- A conditional clause (if/then)
- A question

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time in prayer thanking God for the truths this passage reveals about who He is. Ask Him to help you understand and more clearly see Himself at work in your life. Ask God to reveal any areas where your words have harmed others. Confess where necessary and seek His help to use your speech for encouragement and truth.

## Apply the Word

Write James 4:12 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

Read James 4:11-12.

**1. Read Leviticus 19:16, Jeremiah 6:28, 2 Corinthians 12:20, and 1 Peter 2:1. How do these verses connect to James 4:11-12?**

**2. From this passage, what are we meant to do as believers, and what are we meant not to do?**

**3. Contrast how the world uses “judging” and how Scripture defines it. How are they different?**

**4. Why do you think James connects judging others with speaking against them?**

5. Read Philippians 4:4-9. How can we replace a critical spirit with a loving heart?



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:12 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time in prayer asking God to help you recognize and remove any judgmental attitudes from your heart. Confess where you have fallen short and ask God to help you see others through His eyes.



## Apply the Word

Write down three things you appreciate about someone you've been critical of. If possible, share with them.

# Day Three

---

Read James 4:11-12 and Matthew 7:1-2.

**1. Who are “the brothers” in v. 11?**

**2. What is an example of speaking evil against a brother?**

**3. How does speaking evil result in judging the person and the law?**

**4. Read Psalm 9:7-8 and Ecclesiastes 12:14. How does recognizing God as the ultimate judge bring peace?**

**5. What happens when we try to take God’s role in judgment?**



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:12 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

To release any bitterness or judgment you may be holding toward someone, pray for God to take the heavy burden and ask Him to set you free from the weight of this burden.



## Apply the Word

Pray for someone you have judged in the past and ask God to bless them. Then reach out to that person and let them know that you prayed for them.

# Day Four

---

Read James 4:11-12.

**1. What is the difference between speaking evil versus speaking good to someone?**

**2. How can our speech reflect our faith?**

**3. What are some practical ways to replace negative speech with positive words, and why is it necessary according to James?**

**4. Read Proverbs 16:24, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6, and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. In light of these verses, how should we go about speaking to and about others?**

5. Write vv. 11-12 in your own words.

## Memory Verse

Write James 4:12 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

As followers of Jesus, we are called to a higher standard than the world's standard. Our words should reflect God's love and encourage people in truth. Proverbs 18:21 reminds us that "death and life are in the power of the tongue." How different would our relationships be if we chose to speak with kindness, patience, and encouragement rather than criticism? Today, let's commit to using our words to bless others rather than bring them down. Ask God to make your words a source of encouragement.

## Apply the Word

Pray and ask God to put a name on your heart. Send an uplifting message or make a call to encourage that person today.

# Day Five

---

Read James 4:11-12.

**1. What is the biblical definition of humility?**

**2. What does humility look like in daily life?**

**3. How does humility impact the way we treat others?**

**4. Look at Philippians 2:5-8. How can we be humble like Jesus?**



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:12 from memory below.



## Prayer and Reflection

At the core of James' message is a call to humility. When we recognize that only God is judge, we are freed from the burden of comparison, pride, and resentment. Humility leads us to love people as God loves them, and to remember that we, too, need grace daily. A life of humility and love reflects Jesus and is how we are called to live. Take a moment right now to pray through Philippians 2:3-8. Ask God to help you exemplify His character shown in these verses.



## Apply the Word

Identify one area in your life where pride or self-interest has taken hold. Surrender it to God in prayer and take one action today that reflects Christ-like humility and love.

---

Scan the QR code to see Francis Chan encourage us to anchor our identity, purpose, and relationships in Scripture, offering practical steps to stay grounded in God's truth despite today's challenges.



---

David Diga Hernandez helps us define what true Biblical humility is and what it is not in this quick 50 second video...



# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 4:11-12.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God affect your response when you might be tempted to judge someone?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus, as part of the Godhead, is the righteous judge (John 5:22). God alone has the authority to judge because He alone is holy, just, and perfect. When we try to judge others, we are placing ourselves in a position that belongs to God. As the judge, God chooses to offer mercy to those who come to Him in belief and repentance. In John 8:11, Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery: “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” This reflects His heart of mercy and His desire for restoration. James 4:12 points out that the one who is able to save and destroy is God. This echoes Jesus’ words in Matthew 10:28, where He warns that only God has ultimate authority over life and death. Through Jesus, we find salvation, but rejecting Him leads to separation from God.



# BREVITY OF LIFE

## James 4:13–17

---

At the time James wrote this letter, many in the early Christian community, particularly merchants and business people, were making ambitious plans for profit without considering God’s will. James gives the church a warning of how we should plan for the future and the consequences if we fail to do so.

### Memory Verse

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

—James 4:17

### Family Activity

Life is full of plans, dreams, and ambitions. We map out our future, assuming we have all the time in the world. But James reminds us of an essential truth: our lives are like a mist, appearing for a little while and then vanishing. We are not in control—God is. This week we will focus more on God’s perspective and not our own.

Go outside and blow bubbles together. Watch how quickly they pop or drift away. Discuss how this represents how short life is.

If you do not have bubbles, you can look at the clouds and see how quickly they move and change and discuss how this represents how short life is.

### Icebreaker

Share one memory from the past week that made you appreciate life’s fleeting moments.

---

# Day One

---

Read James 4:13-17. As we come to spend time in God's word today, ask God to help you put into practice all of the observation skills you have been learning throughout this study. Imagine waking up on a foggy morning. Skim the text. What stands out to you?

You see the mist around you, but within moments, the sun rises, and the mist disappears. Details start appearing. What stands out now? What is James saying in this section? Ask God to show you details that you haven't noticed before.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Conjunctions (yet, for, so, etc).
- A question
- A metaphor/figure of speech
- A conditional clause (if/then)

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time in this passage, praying and seeking what God has for you this week.

## Apply the Word

Write James 4:17 below and begin to commit it to memory.



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:17 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

As we think about our earthly lives being like mist, here for only a short time and then vanishing, spend time praising God that He is eternal.

## Apply the Word

Imagine you had only one year left to live. How would your priorities change? Would you still stress over the little things, or would you focus on what truly matters? Psalm 90:12 asks God to “teach us to number our days”—to live wisely, knowing our time on earth is limited. Every choice we make today has eternal significance. Are we living each day with purpose and faith? Is there something that God has put in your heart for you to do? Then be a doer of His will, as we are called to be in James 1:22.

# Day Three

---

Read James 4:15.

1. Verse 15 starts with the word “instead”. How does v. 15 connect to the previous verses?
2. What does it mean to say, “If the Lord wills”?
3. Look at Proverbs 16:9 and Proverbs 19:21. How do these verses encourage us to trust God with our plans?
4. What happens when we hold too tightly to our own plans?
5. How can we make “If the Lord wills” part of our daily lives?



## Going Deeper

How can we balance being responsible as we plan for the future while ultimately trusting God's will?



## Memory Verse

Write James 4:17 below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Where do you struggle to surrender your plans to God? Pause and pray: "Lord, I surrender my plans to You. Help me to trust that Your way is best."



## Apply the Word

Proverbs 16:9 says "the heart of the man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." Write down a goal or plan you have for the future. Pray these verses over your plans.





## Memory Verse

Write James 4:17 from memory below.



## Prayer and Reflection

Pride can make us believe we are self-sufficient, causing us to plan our lives without seeking God. James warns that boasting about our future without acknowledging God is arrogance—and it's dangerous. When we leave God out of our plans, we set ourselves up for disappointment and failure. True wisdom is found in humbling ourselves and depending on the Lord. Ask God to show you any area where you might be making plans in arrogance. Repent and seek His guidance.



## Apply the Word

Each day, remind yourself: “God is in control, not me.” Make it a habit to acknowledge Him in your plans.

# Day Five

---

Read James 4:17.

**1. What does this verse teach us about doing right?**

**2. What is the biblical definition of sin?**

**3. Why is not doing the right thing considered sin?**

**4. Read Luke 12:47-48, John 13:17, and Romans 14:23. How do these verses connect with James 4:17?**



## Going Deeper

What is the difference between sins of omission and sins of commission. How might understanding the difference influence the way we live out our faith daily?

5. How does understanding life's brevity motivate us to do the right thing now?

## Memory Verse

Write James 4:17 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Sit before the Lord and ask where He is calling you to do something that you are failing to do. Ask God to help you recognize and act on opportunities to do the right thing.

## Apply the Word

Don't wait—do one right thing today that you know God is telling you to do!

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 4:13-17.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God affect how you make plans?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

James warns against self-reliance and making plans without acknowledging God's sovereignty. Jesus perfectly lived out submission to the Father, always seeking God's will rather than His own. John 6:38 and Luke 22:42 are two examples of Jesus' submission to His Father. We can be more like Jesus by surrendering our plans to God and seeking His will in all things. James compares life to a mist—brief and fleeting. Jesus often taught about eternity, urging people to focus on heavenly treasures, not earthly gain (Matthew 6:19–20). Jesus Himself lived with eternity in mind. He did not build an earthly empire or seek personal gain. He focused on the mission of calling people to repent and enter God's kingdom (Mark 1:15). We follow Jesus' lead by living with eternity in view—prioritizing faith, obedience, and love over worldly success.

James 4:17 reminds us that knowing the right thing to do but failing to do it is sin. Jesus Himself never neglected to do what was right, whether it was healing, teaching, or ultimately sacrificing Himself on the cross. How can we follow Jesus? By acting on what we know is right—living out our faith through love, service, and obedience to God.



# FADING OF RICHES

## James 5:1-6

---

In this section, James addresses wealthy landowners who were singularly focused on the accumulation of wealth and were corrupt in their dealings with their workers. Through their self indulgence, others were being harmed. He calls them to examine themselves in hopes of moving them toward repentance.

### Memory Verse

“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten.”

—James 5:1-2

### Family Activity

As a family, brainstorm ways that you can use the resources God has given you to further His kingdom. Pick one specific thing to do this week as you remember that all that you have is a gift from God and that He calls us to steward those gifts well with kingdom purpose.

### Icebreaker

Have you ever been cheated out of money?

# Day One

---

Before you begin reading today, look back at previous weeks to remind yourself of different things you can look for in the text. Then read James 5:1-6 slowly several times. Really challenge yourself to see how much detail you can find.

Notice the emotion James writes with in this section. What feelings does he convey? Why do you think he is writing with such rich, descriptive language? List your observations in the space provided.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Figures of speech/metaphors
- Repeated words
- A title of God
- Irony

## Prayer and Reflection

God in His kindness uses His word to point out sin that we may turn to Him in repentance. Ask Him to examine your heart and show you any areas that are not pleasing to Him.

## Apply the Word

Write James 5:1-2 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

Read James 5:1-6.

**1. James uses the language “come now” as he begins this section just as he did in 4:1. What do you think he is trying to accomplish by starting with that phrase?**

**2. Why does James call out the rich in this section? Is he talking to all rich people?**

**3. James commands them to weep and howl. What type of emotion does this express?**

**4. What type of misery is coming upon these wealthy landowners? Why?**

5. Read and summarize Matthew 6:19–24. How does this help your understanding of the meaning of v. 1?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:1–2 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Sit before the Lord and confess ways that you are storing up treasures on earth instead of heaven. Repent before the Lord and ask Him to lessen the grip of earthly treasures and to build your heart for Him.

## Apply the Word

What blessings has God given you that are eternal? Spend time praising God for these things.

# Day Three

---

Earlier in his letter, James gave instructions to wealthy believers on how they were to view money in light of their faith. In James 5:1-6, however, he addresses rich unbelievers, condemns them for mercilessly oppressing the poor, and warns them of the doom that awaits them apart from Christ. Jesus gave a similar warning.

Read Matthew 25:31-46.

**1. What event does Jesus reference in this passage?**

**2. What two groups of people does Jesus compare? Write down any details about the two groups.**

**3. What is the final outcome for the first group? Why?**

**4. What is the final outcome for the second group? Why?**

5. Reread James 5:1-6. How do these two passages relate to each other?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:1-2 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

As believers, the way we use our resources should look radically different from the world's use of resources. How has your love for Jesus led you to provide for the poor and vulnerable? Is giving a regular part of how you express faith and gratitude for all He has given you? Ask God to give you compassion for those in need. Thank the Lord for how generous He has been with you, and ask Him to give you a generous heart toward others, especially those in need.

## Apply the Word

Think of a person or group of people in need. How can you help meet their needs today?

# Day Four

---

Read James 5:1-6.

**1. How did the ungodly of James' day accumulate their riches, garments, gold and silver?**

**2. What has happened to each of these things?**

**3. James uses strong poetic language. What does corrosion symbolize and how will it be evidence against them?**

**4. Notice the destruction of the worldly goods of the rich alongside the demise of their own flesh in v. 3. How will their mistreatment of others ultimately lead to their own suffering?**

5. Compare the treasures laid up in v. 3 with those described in 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:1-2 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

While James is condemning unbelievers for their misuse of wealth in this section, those of us who are in Christ can use his stern words as a warning in our own lives about the danger of making an idol of earthly wealth. Examine your heart before the Lord. Have you prioritized money and possessions over your love for Him? Spend time before the Lord based on how you have answered the question.

## Apply the Word

God owns everything, and all that we have is His, entrusted to us to use to build up His Kingdom. How can you be generous with what God has entrusted to you for a specific kingdom purpose?

# Day Five

---

Read James 5:4-6.

**1. “Behold” is a word used to draw attention to a particular phrase. What idea is James emphasizing and why do you think he’s emphasizing it?**

**2. List several things James accuses the wealthy unbelievers of in these verses.**

**3. Why would James want to remind his Christian audience that the cries of the harvesters have reached God’s ears?**

**4. “The Lord of hosts” is an Old Testament military term. Why would James invoke that particular name of God in this passage?**

5. Normally, we refer to an animal being fattened for slaughter. Why do you think James uses this metaphor for the hearts of those who have become rich by oppressing the poor?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:1-2 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

In what ways do you live in self indulgence? Spend time repenting and then delighting that God can use us to care for people. Thank God for all that He has given you and that He entrusts you with these gifts.

## Apply the Word

The opposite of living in luxury and self indulgence is to think of the Lord and of others before ourselves. Reach out to someone today who needs help and offer assistance, whether it be through your resources or your time.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 5:1-6.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God change how you view wealth and possessions?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus was not surrounded by worldly wealth and possessions during His time on earth. He left heaven and was born simply, in a manger. He lived the life of a carpenter and had no home to call His own during His time of ministry. Jesus' life shows us that the Father values a humble heart, fully devoted to Him, not worldly things.

Jesus repeatedly teaches His followers about the dangers of making an idol of money. He tells us that we can't serve God and money (Matthew 6:24). He teaches about how hard it is for a rich person to enter heaven (Luke 18:24). He even warns that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Yet we also see beautiful examples of people giving generously toward the body and the kingdom in ways that glorify the Lord (Acts 2:45).

God is the giver of every good gift. As believers, we hold all that He has entrusted to us with open hands as we strive to glorify the Lord with our resources.



# PATIENCE

## James 5:7-12

---

James shifts from speaking to wealthy oppressors to an audience of believers, “brothers,” in James 5:7. James emphasizes patience and perseverance in the face of hardship, encouraging believers to wait for the Lord’s judgment. They are to pray for one another, while he also urges them to live with integrity and seek reconciliation.

### Memory Verse

”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. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

—James 5:7-8

### Family Activity

Plant a few seeds in a small pot of soil. Continue to water it and give it sunlight. Patiently wait on it to grow and to see the first sprout appear. Discuss how the farmer waits patiently on his crops and compare this to having patience as believers.

### Icebreaker

When is a time you had to patiently wait on something? How did you feel? Maybe it was an upcoming event or holiday, or standing in a long line at an amusement park.

# Day One

---

Read or listen to James 5:7-12. Challenge yourself to discover as much as possible in these verses. Keep looking and praying.

Notice how James summarizes the main idea of this section at the beginning with a simple command and then goes into more detail about it in the following verses. Write down the main idea and then look to see how he explains it throughout the section. What is the reason for this command? How is it described? What are some examples of the given command? Write all of your observations in the space provided.

## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Attributes of God
- Repeated words
- A metaphor/figure of speech
- An example from the Old Testament



## Prayer and Reflection

Look up the word patient in the dictionary. Write down its meaning and make a list of synonyms. Do any of them resonate with you more than others? Spend time thanking God for His steadfastness and the way He has given you patience in times of suffering.



## Apply the Word

Write James 5:7-8 below and begin to commit it to memory. Continue reviewing the previous memory verses as well.

# Day Two

---

Read James 5:7-8.

**1. How is patience in the Christian life similar to the patience of a farmer?**

**2. Read Jeremiah 5:24 and Hosea 6:3. What encouragement is God giving in these two verses?**

**3. Read Joel 2:23. How does God show His faithfulness?**

**4. “Establishing your heart” is translated “standing firm” in the NIV. In addition to being patient, how is establishing your heart essential?**

5. Write vv. 7-8 in your own words.

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:7-8 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Praise God for the times He has helped you endure and have patience. Charles Spurgeon said, “Patience saves a man from a great deal of haste and folly.” Reflect on times where you have been saved from acting hastily by practicing patience. In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to have patience? Ask God to help you in those areas.

## Apply the Word

Pray for others around the world who are experiencing oppression and are enduring through patience and perseverance. Pray that they would be able to stand firm because the Lord’s coming is near.

# Day Three

---

Read James 5:9.

Read it again in multiple translations.

**1. Take note of what different versions say. Which one resonates most with you? Why?**

**2. James gives a warning. What does it mean that the Judge is standing at the door?**

**3. Who is James saying we should not grumble against?**

**4. Why is it important not to grumble?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:7-8 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time in prayer and journaling to the Lord. Allow Him to search your heart and show you if there is anyone you have “grumbled against” or been impatient with. Ask Him to help you to be more patient with both believers and unbelievers.

## Apply the Word

Praise the Lord for His redemptive plan to come again. Pray for those who do not believe in Jesus that they would know the fullness of God’s redemptive story. Ask God to help you live with the expectancy of His triumphant return.

# Day Four

---

Read James 5:10-11.

**1. What should believers display in the face of suffering?**

**2. Who is considered blessed?**

**3. James reminds us that the prophets of the Old Testament endured hardship, yet practiced endurance. Read Jeremiah 20:1-6. How did Jeremiah endure mistreatment?**

**4. To learn more about Job's "steadfastness" read Job 1:20-22 and 19:13-27. How do these verses show Job persevered?**

**5. Verse 11 tells us that the Lord is compassionate and merciful. How have you seen those characteristics from God displayed in Scripture? For examples, see Exodus 3:7-8 and 34:4-11.**

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:7-8 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Thank the Lord for His compassion and mercy. Journal ways He has specifically shown you compassion and mercy. Ask the Lord to give you patience in the face of suffering. Journal ways He has helped you to persevere.

## Apply the Word

How can you encourage others who are going through a difficult time? Who do you know who may be currently suffering? Stop and pray for them, asking the Lord to help them have patience in the face of suffering, steadfastness in the face of trials. Pray that they would have endurance and know the compassion and mercy of the Lord. Then reach out to that person and let them know you have prayed for them.

# Day Five

---

An oath is a solemn declaration or promise made to God or in God's presence to affirm the truthfulness of a statement or the binding nature of a promise.

An oath is often accompanied by actions or gestures emphasizing its importance.

Read James 5:12.

**1. In your own words, rewrite v. 12.**

**2. Read Matthew 5:33-37. How are these words that Jesus spoke in Matthew similar to James' words?**

**3. How does this verse demonstrate the importance of the integrity of one's words?**

**4. What is James' warning against in v. 12?**

**5. How can you ensure that your spoken word is trusted?**

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:7-8 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Pray that the Lord would show you any untruthful words you have spoken. Ask Him to help you have integrity of character with your speech.

## Apply the Word

Reach out to a trusted friend and confess if you struggle with letting your yes be yes. Ask for prayer and accountability.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 5:7-12.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God allow you to be patient in suffering?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus is the ultimate example of patience in the face of suffering, as He endured the cross. He showed patience to the multitudes as they were slow to understand His mission, and to His disciples even when they denied Him. Jesus modeled perseverance by continually sharing God's message even in the face of opposition.

As we think about our own suffering, we can be encouraged that Jesus' example of patience and perseverance through suffering shows He is a savior who empathizes. He understands what physical, emotional, and mental suffering feels like and He shows us it is possible to have patience and perseverance in the midst of trials. For believers, Jesus is with us to help us endure as He did. We can do so without bitterness or resentment, trusting that Jesus will ultimately bring justice and peace from suffering.



# POWER OF PRAYER

## James 5:13-20

---

James returns to the principle of dependence on God in his discussion of prayer, praise, and confession. He urges believers to confess their sins to one another for healing. James has the same advice for the suffering and the cheerful—take it to the Lord in prayer.

### Memory Verse

“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.”

—James 5:16

### Family Activity

Go on a walk and discuss what you have learned so far as you have studied the book of James. What has God been teaching you? What do you look forward to as you wrap up this study? Use this time not only for discussion, but to also prayer-walk your neighborhood. Pray for your neighbors to know Jesus and to grow deeper in God’s word. Pray that God would give you or others the opportunity to share the gospel with those who do not know the salvation that comes through Jesus.

### Icebreaker

Can you share a time when prayer—either your own or someone else’s—made a difference in your life or someone you know?

# Day One

---

Read James 5:13–20. Read through the passage again in other translations. Approach this final section of James with joy! Have fun putting all of your observation skills into practice. Celebrate your growing ability to study the Bible. Thank God for the wisdom He continues to generously give you as you ask Him.

What is James emphasizing at the conclusion of his letter? Notice all of the causes and effects. To what actions is he calling his audience (us)? When should they do them? Why? What will be the result? How does this relate to what he has said previously in the letter? Write down everything that stands out to you.



## Observations

---

### Look for:

- Questions
- Commands
- An example from the Old Testament
- Conditional clauses (if/then)



## Prayer and Reflection

Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to give you understanding as you read and study the word. Pray that He will help you apply the truth in these verses to your daily walk.



## Apply the Word

Write James 5:16 below and begin to commit it to memory.

# Day Two

---

Read James 5:13-15.

1. In what circumstances should we pray and give praise?
2. What do you think the purpose of prayer is when things are hard?

## Going Deeper

The early church was a church of singing, of healing, and of praying. Give examples of these.

3. The word anoint used in this context refers to the practice of rubbing oil on sick people. Why do you think James tells them to anoint sick people with oil in the name of the Lord?
4. Why do you think James uses the phrase “in faith” to describe prayer here?

## 5. What are the results of the prayers of faith in v. 15?



### Memory Verse

Write James 5:16 below.



### Prayer and Reflection

Does your prayer life reflect the belief that God is able and willing to help in all situations, times of trouble or times of joy? Ask God to search your heart in this matter.



### Apply the Word

Think about the ways the church community helps and cares for the sick. Are there ways you could be more involved in this ministry? Are there people God is calling you to care for in your life?

# Day Three

---

Read James 5:16.

**1. There is debate about whether this verse speaks to physical or spiritual healing or both. Either way, it says confessing our sins to one another and prayer may lead to healing. How might confessing our sins to someone and praying promote healing of either kind?**

**2. Why is it important for believers to pray for one another?**

**3. How might the habit of confessing and praying with one another strengthen relationships within the church?**

**4. Who is the righteous man in this verse and how are his prayers powerful and effective?**

5. How does v. 16 reinforce the fact that prayer is powerful? What can prayer lead to?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:16 below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Do you struggle to open up to others about your sin? Is it hard for you to admit your struggles? Spend time in prayer, confessing your sin. Ask Him to search your heart and to soften you to the idea of walking closely with others, even when it means being vulnerable.

## Apply the Word

Do you have someone you can confess to, who will pray for you? Go to this person (or people) and ask them for mutual support through confession to help create a bond of healing and trust. If you do not have someone that you have this type of relationship with, then seek someone out to build this type of community. If you are not already in a LifeGroup, consider joining one.

---

# Day Four

---

To read more about  
Elijah, see 1 Kings  
17-19.

Read James 5:17-18.

**1. What is James trying to emphasize by referencing Elijah in these verses?**

**2. How do these verses support James 5:16 regarding the prayer of a righteous man?**

**3. How does Elijah's example of fervent praying encourage us in our prayer life?**

**4. James uses the phrase "heaven gave rain." What do you think he is trying to emphasize here?**

5. Read Luke 11:1-13. What was Jesus teaching His disciples about prayer?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:16 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Think about your own prayer life. Do you pray with confidence and consistency? If not, what is holding you back? Ask God to help you persistently and faithfully pray. Keep praying and trusting the One who brings the rain and fruit in its season.

## Apply the Word

Journal a prayer to God and ask Him to help you to pray with boldness like Elijah did.

# Day Five

---

Read James 5:19-20.

1. What does it mean to wander from the truth? Who could do this?
2. What can you do if you notice someone wandering from the truth? How can you help restore them with grace and humility?
3. If you help a sinner turn from the error of their ways, what could you be saving them from?
4. How can relationships within the body help a believer?
5. Read 1 Timothy 4:16. How does this correlate with the last verse in James?

## Memory Verse

Write James 5:16 from memory below.

## Prayer and Reflection

Can you think of times you have strayed from the truth of God's word? If so, who did God use to help bring you back? Thank God for those people in your life. Pray that you would be the type of person to help others draw near to Jesus.

## Apply the Word

In light of this study of James, what changes do you need to make? Write them down. Now ask someone to help hold you accountable to follow through.

# Wrap Up

---

Reread James 5:13-20.

**Write down all of the attributes of God from this week.**

**How might knowing these truths about God stir your faith as you come to Him in prayer?**

**How will what you learned this week alter:**

**Your prayers?**

**Your actions?**

**Your words?**

**Your thinking?**

**What is your biggest takeaway from this week?**

**What action will you take to be a doer of what you have learned?**

## Jesus in This Section

Jesus modeled prayer and intercession throughout His time on earth (John 17). Jesus is the righteous One whose prayers are powerful. He not only taught about prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), but He demonstrated it as a vital part of His ministry (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12). His source of strength and power was the Father and that was evident in His prayer life. Jesus is the intercessor (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25) in prayer on our behalf. Prayer in Jesus' name is powerful and effective (John 14:13-14).

Jesus is the restorer; He came to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10). James calls the Christian community to take part in this redemptive work of pointing people to Jesus. Jesus is the One who ultimately saves us from sin and restores us to life by salvation and reconciliation with God through His redemptive work on the cross. He is also the One who can reconcile people to one another. Jesus uses the church to share the good news of salvation to unbelievers and to restore those who have strayed.

# Attributes of God

## ALL-POWERFUL

God has unlimited ability, power and strength to do anything He pleases. There is no one who can compare with the power of God.

(Job 42:1-2, Matthew 19:26, Ephesians 3:20.)

## CREATOR

God created everything. Nothing would exist without Him.

(Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 45:18, Colossians 1:16-17.)

## FAITHFUL

God does what He says He will do and fulfills His promises. He is worthy of trust.

(Deuteronomy 7:9, 2 Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 10:23.)

## GOOD

God's goodness incorporates His love, kindness, and righteousness. Everything God does is good.

(Genesis 50:20, Psalm 34:8, Matthew 7:11.)

## GRACIOUS

God gives generously, not based on the merit of the receiver, but on His character.

(2 Kings 13:23, John 1:16, Ephesians 2:8-9.)

## HOLY

God is pure, morally perfect, and without sin. He is sacred and set apart.

(Isaiah 57:15, Habakkuk 1:13, Revelation 15:4.)

## IMMUTABLE

God doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

(Psalm 102:25-27, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8.)

## JEALOUS

God rightly desires the praise, devotion, and honor that He alone deserves.

(Exodus 20:4-5, Joshua 24:19, Isaiah 42:8.)

## JUST/ABLE TO JUDGE

God governs in perfect justice. He does not show favoritism.

(Isaiah 61:8, Romans 2:11, 1 Peter 2:23.)

## LOVE

God is not just loving, but He is love. His love is expressed in His unconditional care, provision, and sacrifice for us.

(Psalm 145:8, John 3:16, Romans 5:8.)

## MERCIFUL

God is compassionate, kind, forgiving, and He withholds deserved punishment.

(Lamentations 3:22-23, Micah 7:18, Titus 3:5.)

## SOVEREIGN

God alone rightfully and supremely rules over all creation with authority and power. He is in complete control and works all things according to His will.

(1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Isaiah 46:9-10, Romans 8:28.)

## TRUE

God is the true God. All His words and knowledge are true and are the standard of truth. God cannot lie.

(Numbers 23:19, John 14:6, Hebrews 6:18.)

## WISE

God possesses all knowledge and perfect discernment. He is the source of all wisdom.

(Job 12:13, Proverbs 2:6, Romans 16:27.)

## WORTHY OF GLORY

God is deserving of glory, worship, and praise. Because of who He is, and all His divine attributes, He alone is worthy of glory.

(Psalm 96:7-9, Jeremiah 10:6-7, Revelation 5:12-13.)

