



## Intro Letter

James

Welcome to the INTRUTH Bible Study on James.

### **Studying the Word of God transforms lives!**

The Bible is God's message of redemption, as well as our instruction book for life. God wants us to search the Bible so we can understand the TRUTH of His character and His desire for us. More than any other book in the New Testament, James places the spotlight on the necessity for believers to act in accordance with our faith.

This study includes 5 lessons, a cover sheet and a dictionary. Each lesson has a memory verse, 15-20 questions, a Take Away and a Blessing. They are written with the New Living Translation (NLT), but any translation will add to your experience.

These lessons are beneficial to anyone but are geared toward 10-15 year olds. This age group is experiencing major changes developmentally - physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. It is a time of having questions about God, about self and about where they fit in the world. These lessons were created to help students think critically and wrestle through who they are and what they believe.

Teenagers are inundated with technology but starving for relationships. If possible, complete the lesson on your own and then discuss it together to learn from each other.

James is a letter from Jesus' brother to the early church in Jerusalem about the hypocrisy happening among Christians. Like a lot of us today, the people of the early church struggled with committing every part of their lives to Jesus. Our spiritual lives grow when we listen to God's Word and follow it wholeheartedly. As Jesus works in us, He begins to work through us and we begin to think differently and act differently.

May the Lord use these lessons to help you develop a personal, life-long love for God's Word and encourage you to connect in a community that prays, supports and shares life together!

Enjoy!



## Commentary

### James

Scholars believe James, the younger brother of Jesus (son of Mary and Joseph) likely wrote this book, the first book written for the New Testament. Even though the letter is addressed to first century Christians it gives advice just as important to us today.

James wrote to believers, so the letter doesn't present the message of salvation. Instead he emphasizes how people who already trust in Christ should live. James focuses on real issues that believers face: temptation, anger, favoritism, careless words, quarrelling, boasting, and patience. God knows we're not perfect, but He expects us, with help from the Holy Spirit, to strive to be like Jesus. God wants to change our lives—at home, school, playing sports, on the computer, everywhere.

James shows us that when acts of love are lacking, faith is lacking. If someone "claims to have faith but has no deeds" James says that faith is false. Genuine faith joins us with Jesus Christ so that the power of the Holy Spirit can work in our thoughts and actions. "Words only" faith has no saving power.

What do you think the biggest challenge is to living a Godly life? The tongue - our words. The problem of the tongue is universal. The "tongue" applies to all communication, whether spoken, typed in a computer, or some other means. Just as our actions reveal if our faith is alive, so our speech reveals if our hearts are pure. The life of faith must have action (James 2) and Holy Spirit controlled conversation (James 3).

James wrote to Christians who had problems. These Christians favored rich people, couldn't control their tongues, fought with each other, etc. James ends chapter 3 talking about peace and starts chapter 4 talking about fights. Battles in the world as well as in the church begin with spiritual battles in our hearts. Selfish Christians lack power in their prayers.

Another cause for conflict in the church is "friendship with the world." James 4 calls Christians who adopt the world's philosophy "adulterous people." When we conform to the world around us we are unfaithful to our Lord. James goes on to point out that God gives grace to the humble. It takes grace and humility for people to submit. Arrogant people can't see their own needs. They think they have it all when they are spiritually poor, blind and naked (Revelation 3:17). Humility draws us to God; pride makes Him our opponent.

James 5 gives straight-forward advice about health, wealth, prayer, and pain. James also inserts some subtle warnings about the last days, Christ's return, and judgment. At the close of his letter James gives us an urgent reminder that we live in a fallen world,



## Commentary

James

but we live for a life beyond this world.

Scripture tells us to pray directly to God (1 Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 4:14-16), but James shares the value of having godly believers pray for us. The Apostle Paul asked God for healing and God said, “No” in order to demonstrate grace through Paul’s weakness. Healing can be a difficult subject, but we don’t want to miss God’s healing because we never asked for it (James 4:2).

James closes his letter by asking us to bring anyone who drifts from the faith back into belief. We should do this in gentle humility and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

How well do your actions mirror the faith that you proclaim? This is a question that we all struggle to answer well.

As you study the letter from James, focus on each area that he mentions: your actions during trials, your treatment of those less fortunate, the way you speak and relate to others, and the role that money plays in how you live your life.

As you can see the book of James gives practical advice for the believer in living out what one believes. May you be blessed and inspired as you read and study the book of James.



## James



THEME VERSE: "Don't just listen to the Word, do what it says."  
James 1:22

## Author

James, Jesus' half-brother

## Dates

45-48 A.D.

## Setting

Believers in the church of Jerusalem

## Purpose

More than any other book in the New Testament, James places the spotlight on the necessity for believers to act in accordance with our faith. How well do your actions mirror the faith that you proclaim?

## Key Points

1. True faith stands up under trial and pressure.
2. Genuine faith will motivate us to action.
3. True faith will change how we talk.
4. True faith will motivate and change how we think.
5. True faith avoids worldliness to pursue godliness.
6. True faith avoids the misuse of earthly resources.
7. Genuine faith motivates us to look out for the other guy not just ourselves.

## Lessons

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Lesson 1: Persevering for God     | (James 1:1-27) |
| Lesson 2: Real Faith in God       | (James 2:1-26) |
| Lesson 3: Wisdom from God         | (James 3:1-18) |
| Lesson 4: Worldliness Against God | (James 4:1-17) |
| Lesson 5: Attitudes from God      | (James 5:1-20) |



## Dictionary

James

<b>anger</b>	feelings of hostility toward a person or something that has wronged or injured you.
<b>attitude</b>	what someone feels inside about a person or thing; typically reflected in a person's behavior.
<b>authority</b>	right to exercise power over someone else; Jesus is the ultimate authority in any Christian's life.
<b>believe</b>	to accept as true or real; trust; have confidence in; have faith in; make a commitment to. Faith.
<b>Bible</b>	God's autobiography; God's plan for the world; a love letter to us; an instruction manual on how to act and live.
<b>blessing</b>	made content by God; divine favor or heavenly reward.
<b>church</b>	groups of believers; people are the church. When we become Christians we're born into the church family.
<b>Christ</b>	Jesus Christ; anointed Son of God; the Savior of the world. Paid the complete penalty for sin for the whole world.
<b>compassion</b>	sharing the hurts of another and wanting to help.
<b>confess</b>	openly admit wrongdoing to God; ask for forgiveness; commit to not let it happen again.
<b>conform</b>	agree, follow, act according to socially acceptable standards; become similar in character.
<b>covet</b>	want something that belongs to another.
<b>deceive</b>	to mislead; lie; cause someone to believe something that is not true.
<b>demons</b>	are ruled by Satan; they work to tempt people to sin; they were created by God, but are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion.
<b>disciple</b>	"student"; a learner. Disciples of Jesus Christ want to think and live like Him.
<b>earnest</b>	showing sincere and intense conviction.
<b>endurance</b>	with-standing hardship; strength to continue or last. See perseverance.
<b>envy</b>	feelings of discontent and resentment over the desire for possessions or qualities of another.
<b>eternal life</b>	life that begins when a person turns from sin in commitment to Jesus. Supreme quality of life on earth as well as unending life with God.
<b>eternity</b>	forever; time without a beginning or an end.
<b>evil spirits</b>	see demons.

<b>faith</b>	trust, loyalty, belief; accepting God's Word as fact; deciding to surrender and live your life to follow Jesus.
<b>faithful</b>	people who put faith in Christ; set apart; alive spiritually.
<b>favoritism</b>	favoring one person or group over another; being prejudiced in favor of someone.
<b>fear of the Lord</b>	to respect who God is, what He says, and what He does; a respect that leads to obedience and love of God; profound reverence and awe toward God; true honor, devotion, obedience and love of God.
<b>forgiveness</b>	to pardon sins.
<b>glory</b>	divine quality; splendor, beauty and radiance of God's presence.
<b>God</b>	The One who is all-powerful; all-knowing; present everywhere at once; unchanging; above the bounds of time; absolutely right to govern His creation; Holy.
<b>God's will</b>	the design and desire of God for all of His creation; way believers are to live.
<b>Good News/gospel</b>	"good news"; story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. The message that God sent His Son Jesus to take away our sins by dying on the cross and resurrecting to life again to save all who trust in Him.
<b>grace</b>	God's free and undeserved love toward sinful humans that never quits. God's favor. Gift to believers.
<b>guard your heart</b>	keeping your heart pure and safe by protecting it from evil and focusing God. Heart
<b>heart</b>	inner thoughts and feelings; the real me living inside that thinks, feels, and decides; my character or personality.
<b>heaven</b>	God's home and where those who have believed in Jesus as their Savior go when they die. heavenly realm as real as the natural realm; determines what takes places in the natural realm; invisible but visible through faith.
<b>hell</b>	a place of punishment for those who die without believing in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
<b>holy/holiness</b>	set apart for use by God; a continual work by the HS in the lives of Christians. A life like God wants you to live.
<b>Holy Spirit (HS)</b>	Holy Spirit (HS) God's Spirit. Lives within all Christians to help them, communicate God's truth to them, convict them of sin, convince them that God's ways are right, empower them to obey Jesus and comfort them when sad.
<b>honor</b>	show highest respect for.
<b>hope</b>	believe with confidence that God will accomplish what He has promised; that God will be faithful to do what He said He would do; that we trust God even if we never find out why something happens.
<b>humility</b>	a modest view of one's own importance; seeing ourselves as God sees us; recognizing that all we have comes from God.
<b>hypocrisy</b>	pretending to be something you are not and have no intention of being.
<b>jealous</b>	feeling of wanting something someone else has; feeling of being angry at someone because they have what you want.
<b>Jesus</b>	The Christ; anointed Son of God; true Messiah; Savior of the world. Paid the complete penalty for sin for the whole world.

<b>joy</b>	deep feeling of contentment; evidence of a Holy Spirit filled life.
<b>judgment</b>	act or process of judging - only God's to decide and carry out.
<b>Kingdom of God</b>	Jesus' reign now and a future time when Jesus will rule over all humanity. Jesus has come but He will come again.
<b>law</b>	word used to describe God's rules for living; commandments; makes people aware of sin and their sinfulness. With Jesus, the way we approach God and understand the law changed from the Law Old Testament.
<b>love</b>	more than just a feeling. Love wants what is best for the other person and acts in a kind way toward them.
<b>mercy</b>	deep caring, loving, forgiveness, and kindness when it is not deserved.
<b>Messiah</b>	Jesus Christ. Messiah is a Hebrew word for the person chosen by God to die for our sins.
<b>miracle</b>	wonderful happening that cannot be explained by nature or science; demonstration of God's power.
<b>motive</b>	the feelings inside a person that causes him/her to think or act in a certain way; the reason for our behavior.
<b>oath</b>	solemn promise of commitment. See swear.
<b>offering</b>	to give freely as a gift or a sacrifice – symbolizing the repentance and faith required to have a right relationship with God. Giving something up that you want to keep for yourself.
<b>obey/obedience</b>	believing and doing what God says; living like Him; pleasing Hi; serving Him; getting to know better. Obeying God shows our trust in Him and His will.
<b>patience</b>	the ability to bear problems, annoyances, or pain without getting angry.
<b>peace</b>	God-given contentment which results in total confidence in God for everything.
<b>persecution</b>	treating someone in a cruel way because he is different.
<b>perseverance</b>	the ability to endure difficulties with calmness and patience.
<b>reconciled</b>	restored relationship.
<b>redeem/ redemption</b>	buy back; to rescue with a ransom; Jesus paid the price for our release from sin - He redeemed us. relationship God wants a close, personal, daily relationship with you.
<b>repent</b>	regret something you have done; ask God to forgive you; and want to change your ways; turn away from sin.
<b>resurrection</b>	to come back to life after being dead.
<b>righteous/ righteousness</b>	being in a right relationship with God; without guilt or sin. God declares believers not guilty/ righteous because of their faith in Jesus.
<b>salvation/saved</b>	rescued or delivered from the penalty and power of sin in your life because you believe that Jesus, God's Son, came to earth and died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins. He resurrected to life again to save all who trust in Him. Saved.
<b>Satan</b>	God's enemy; powerful angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven; tempts people to sin.

<b>Savior</b>	Jesus Christ is “The Savior” because He delivers us from being punished for our sins.
<b>servant</b>	one who belongs to another; serves another; also called slave in the Bible.
<b>sin</b>	any action or attitude that falls short of God's perfect standard; separates us from a holy God. When we sin we show contempt for God. Sin keeps the world from working as God originally intended it to.
<b>slander</b>	to make an evil, false statement about someone that could hurt his/her reputation.
<b>sovereign</b>	having complete power and authority.
<b>Spirit</b>	see Holy Spirit (HS).
<b>submit</b>	to submit to others means respecting a person's authority; to submit to God means surrendering our own will to His; submitting is ongoing with every choice.
<b>swear</b>	to promise by something holy that you are telling the truth.
<b>temptation</b>	anything that attracts a person to do something unwise, wrong, or opposed to God's will.
<b>transformation</b>	God's promise and His work in believers' lives - radical and thorough change, both outward and inward to be more like Jesus.
<b>trials/troubles</b>	struggles or hard times that all Christians go through. God can use these hard times as opportunities to strengthen and mature our faith by causing us to depend more fully on Him.
<b>Truth</b>	God's Word is truth. It comes from God and can be trusted; genuine; honest; reliable; Jesus is called the Truth.
<b>unity</b>	harmony; in agreement; together with like purposes.
<b>wisdom</b>	God-given understanding; the ability to distinguish between right and wrong; comes from God.
<b>worship</b>	giving reverence and honor to God; expressing our love and praise to Him.
<b>world</b>	the values and ways of life found in the world that oppose the ways of God. People who live as though there is no God.



## Endurance for God



MEMORY VERSE: "Don't just listen to the Word, do what it says."  
James 1:22

### DAY 1 JAMES 1:1-4 — Faith and Endurance

1. How does James, the brother of Jesus, describe himself?  
Do you think of yourself as a slave/servant to Jesus? Explain.
2. What are you to do when you encounter troubles? What would make it possible for you to truly consider them this way?
3. What does James tell us the testing of our faith develops? vv. 3-4  
How would you explain what it means to do this through trials/troubles?
4. How do you think enduring/persevering through trials impacts your relationship with God?

### DAY 2 JAMES 1:5-8 — Faith and Wisdom

5. How can a person get wisdom? v. 5

6. When we ask for wisdom, who is our faith to be in? Why? vv. 5-8

7. What happens when we confidently pray and trust God with our daily doubts, troubles and confusion?

### **DAY 3** JAMES 1:9-18 — Faith and Obedience

8. Read verses 9-11. Rich or poor we will all have trials. Why do you think it is harder for people with money to put their ultimate identity in Christ and not in possessions?

9. Whom does God bless? What will they receive? v. 12

10. Read verses 13-15. Describe the downward spiral of temptation.

11. What do you learn from verses 16-18?

### **DAY 4** JAMES 1:19-27 — Listening and Doing

12. What commands do verses 19-20 give? Why are these commands so important?

13. What does James tell us that we are to do?  
v. 21

v. 22

v. 25

v. 26

v. 27

14. Read verses 23-24. How is the God's Word like a mirror?

## DAY 5 JAMES 1 — Wrap Up

15. What do our trials/troubles reveal about our faith?

16. What do the following expressions mean to you:  
Be slow to get angry

Keep yourself free from evil influence

Control your tongue

Have compassion for people in need

### TAKE AWAY

As hard as it may be, strive to thank God for the trials He brings into your life. Right now, what is really stressing you out? Find three things about it that can bring you joy.

### BLESSING

If you lack confidence in the Lord, ask Him to renew your faith in His sovereign provision. God is near and wants to help!



## Real Faith in God



MEMORY VERSE: “It is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures:  
“Love your neighbor as yourself.”  
James 2:8

### DAY 1 JAMES 2:1-7 — The Believer and Discrimination

1. Read verses 1-4. What does James ask? What does this discrimination show? What are some of the motivations behind favoritism?
2. How do God and man view people differently? See 1 Samuel 16:7.
3. How does God view people who are poor by the world’s standards? v. 5
4. How do you treat people that are different from you?

### DAY 2 JAMES 2:8-13 — The Believer and Favoritism

5. According to verse 8, when are we doing good? What’s one way you can do this today?
6. Read verses 9-11. Why do you think we are guilty of breaking the whole law if we only break part of it?

7. From verses 12-13, when we are tempted to show favoritism what should we remember?

8. Who is a person in your life that you need to show more love to? How will you do this?

### DAY 3 JAMES 2:14-20 — The Believer and His Deeds

9. What is the main point of verses 14-16?

10. How did James say believers should show true faith? vv. 17-18

11. Read verses 19-20. What is the difference in saving faith and non-saving belief like the demons had?

12. What kind of works might accompany living faith?

### DAY 4 JAMES 2:21-26 — Faith and Action

13. What two examples did James use for effective faith? Why?  
Abraham

Rahab

14. What does James say about the relationship between faith and actions? v. 22  
What do your actions say about your faith?

## **DAY 5** JAMES 2 — Wrap Up

15. What has God used in James 2 to probe or to deepen or to strengthen your faith?

16. Why do you think it's so important to God that we follow all of His commands, not just the ones we like?

17. What's one way you can bring your actions more in line with what you believe?

### **TAKE AWAY**

Think of someone that to you has a lot of faith. What does their life look like?

### **BLESSING**

God blesses you when you take action to love and help others!





## Wisdom from God



MEMORY VERSE: "Take control of what I say, O Lord, and guard my lips."  
Psalm 141:3

### DAY 1

### JAMES 3:1-5 — Control of the Tongue

1. Read verses 1-2. In what way is verse 2 related to verse 1 on teachers? Why do you think those who teach will be "judged more strictly"?

2. What did James acknowledge about all of us? v. 2

3. What illustrations did James use to describe the power of the tongue?

this little thing

controls this big thing

v. 3

v. 4

v. 5b

4. How could your words be powerful enough to:  
Poison a relationship?

Help someone who is struggling?

### DAY 2

### JAMES 3:6-12 — Power of the Tongue

5. What do verses 6-8 say about the nature and power of the tongue?

6. What we say shows the condition of our sinful hearts. Where does help come from to change our hearts and words? Refer to Psalm 51:10; Ephesians 3:16-17; Romans 8:26a.
7. What good and what evil things come out of the same mouth? vv. 9-10
8. Why is it so important to the world that we believers control our tongues?  
Refer to 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

### DAY 3 JAMES 3:13-17 — Two Kinds of Wisdom

9. What does James tell us to do if we are wise and understand God's ways? v. 13
10. James tells us that there are two different sets of wisdom because the assumptions about life we base our decisions on are different: worldly wisdom and heavenly wisdom.  
How does wisdom from the world show itself in people? vv. 14-15

What does this wisdom lead to? v. 16

11. What is heavenly wisdom like? v. 17
12. How can you fill yourself up with heavenly wisdom?  
James 1:5-8

Proverbs 2:1-15

**DAY 4** JAMES 3:18 — Plant Seeds of Peace

13. What are the results of exercising heavenly wisdom?

14. How do peacemakers:  
Bring glory to God?

Bring blessings and joy to others?

**DAY 5** JAMES 3 — Wrap Up

15. Consider your words over the past week. What % were positive? What % were negative?  
What are some practical ways you can reduce your negative words?

What are some practical ways that you can use your words for good?

16. When you need wisdom, where do you go? Why?  
What's one way you've seen God's wisdom proved true in your life?

**TAKE AWAY**

We have more of a tendency to sin/stumble with our words when we are hungry, angry, lonely, and tired - HALT! This week remember to HALT!

**BLESSING**

We need God's wisdom to discern the truth and to stand up for it in a world growing far away from God. Be a Christ follower who lives out their beliefs in this world!





6. “So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” v. 7  
How do we humble/submit ourselves to God? Refer to Romans 12:1-2.

How do we resist the devil? Refer to Ephesians 6:10-18.

7. What will God do if we “come close to” Him? What helps you “come close” to God?

8. Why would applying verses 8-9 lead to humility?

### **DAY 3** JAMES 4:11-12 — Judging Others

9. What are we really doing when we speak evil against one another? What is our job?

10. Who gave the law and is the Judge? What does He have the right to do?

11. So what kind of attitude should we have about judging?

### **DAY 4** JAMES 4:13-17 — What About Tomorrow

12. What should our attitude be about our future plans?

13. Do you make plans without stopping to consider if those plans match God's plans? How can we make our plans align with God's plans for us?

14. How does verse 17 apply to the other verses in this chapter?

## **DAY 5** JAMES 4 — Wrap Up

15. More than anything God wants a living dynamic relationship with you. How can you grow in your relationship with Him?

16. Instead of judging your neighbor, how could you better love him?

Instead of acting as if you have control over your future, how could you acknowledge that God controls the future?

### **TAKE AWAY**

Ask God for a humble attitude to define all that you do!

### **BLESSING**

We can receive God's presence, peace, and love as we focus on Him and turn our lives daily over to Him.





## Attitudes from God



MEMORY VERSE: “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”  
James 5:16

### DAY 1 JAMES 5:1-6 — Our Attitude About Money

1. What will happen to the wealth of certain rich people? What are these people guilty of?
2. What should wealth be used for? Refer to 2 Corinthians 9:6-14.
3. If you are rich, what kind of lifestyle should you live and how should use your money? If you are poor, what should your attitude be towards money?

### DAY 2 JAMES 5:7-12 — Our Attitude About Patience

4. What great promise do believers need to wait patiently for? Why is the farmer a good example of patience? vv. 7-8
5. Read verse 9. What does it mean to “grumble”? Why is grumbling against one another so destructive?

6. Why are the prophets such good examples of patience? Refer to Matthew 13:16-17.
7. What's one area of your life where you need to demonstrate the patience James talks about?
8. Why is the command given in verse 12? Do people believe you when you say "yes" or "no"? Why do you think James is so adamant about this?

### DAY 3

### JAMES 5:13-18 — Our Attitude About Prayer

9. Read verses 13-15. What should we do when we are: suffering hardships? happy? sick? What guidelines make these prayers effective? Also refer to James 1:5-8.
10. Confession removes what is standing between Jesus and us. What does James say about earnest prayers from righteous people? v. 16b
11. Read verses 17-18. When have you seen the importance of faith in your prayers?

### DAY 4

### JAMES 5:19-20 — Our Attitude Towards Others

12. What is our responsibility to one another? vv.19 –20

13. Do you have Christian friends that pray for you, help you, and hold you accountable?  
What difference does that make in your life?

## DAY 5 JAMES 5 — Wrap Up

14. Evaluate your lifestyle and your generosity. Is there anything that needs to be adjusted?

15. After studying this chapter, where do you believe your security is?

16. What are your take aways about prayer from this chapter?

### TAKE AWAY

God loves you and wants to answer your prayers! Be encouraged today to keep praying and believing God because your prayers work!

### BLESSING

Nothing we experience on earth will come close to what it will be like to spend eternity in heaven.

