

THE BOOK OF JAMIES



THE BOOK OF JAMES

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WHY DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

JOSHUA 1:8

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

JOHN 17:3

God wants us to know Him and His Son Jesus. The Bible is the primary way God communicates with us, so we cannot know God unless we study His Word. We are also all looking for a life that is prosperous and successful. The only way to the life God meant for us is to read the Bible regularly and do what it says.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING IT TOGETHER

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

GENESIS 2:18

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:25

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

HEBREWS 3:13

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

God created us to be in community both with Him and with other people. Sin is deceitful and without the help of others we will fall into its trap regularly. We all have blind spots and we need others to help us see those blind spots. We also long to be known and to know others deeply. Our prayer is that you will find deep connections and love through community in this Bible study.

HOW DO WE STUDY THE BIBLE?

Jesus said the greatest command is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. We want to apply all areas of ourselves to the Scriptures (Mark 12:30). Each week there will be questions to think through in the categories of our Head, Heart, and Hands. In addition to this, there will be a scannable QR Code that leads to other guided questions for those who want to dive even deeper in the text.

HEAD

God has given us a mind that needs to be transformed. We want to think hard and apply our mind for the glory of God and to know everything God wants us to know from the Bible. In this section, think like a detective to get down all the facts and ask questions.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ROMANS 12:2

HEART

We want the text to not only impact the way we think, but also to go down deep into our souls where our worldview and emotions come from. In this section try to think more deeply about how the text impacts your life – past, present, and future.

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

HEBREWS 4:12

HANDS

The Word of God should not just change the way we think and feel but transform our actions and the way we do life. Try to have an objective application each week that you can apply right away.

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

JAMES 1:22

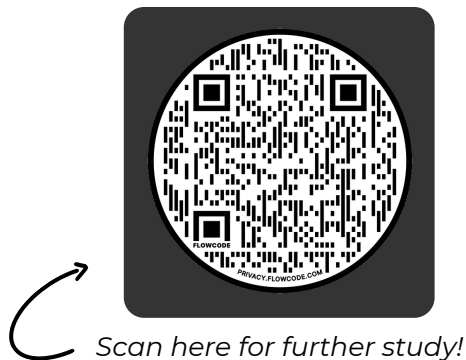


Scan here for further study!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE A PERFECT LIFE?

James seeks to answer this question in his letter to a group of suffering believers in the ancient world. As Jesus' half-brother, James writes a series of mini-sermons elaborating on Jesus' original teaching to help us have the wisdom we need to live an integrated and whole life. Through his teaching about the importance of the word, taming our tongues, and how to think about money, James gives us a picture of what a mature Christian life looks like.

For an overview of the whole book, scan the code below to watch a video from The Bible Project.



Scan here for further study!

THE BOOK OF JAMES

WEEK 1

As we study Chapter 1 of James, you might notice that he seems to jump quickly from topic to topic without much transition. That's because James is introducing topics that he is going to write more about later in the book. Through these short summaries of topics, James introduces us to the overarching theme of the whole book: spiritual maturity and integration. He wants us to see that as we let the Gospel make its way into every area of our lives, we will become "mature and complete, not lacking anything."

JAMES 1:1-18

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations Greetings. 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. 9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. 12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

HEAD

Based on verses 2-4, what should our response be when we face challenging circumstances?

How is this response different from our natural reaction to hard times? How does this different response change us?

Do you think God is OK with us not knowing what we should do next? What does James say about this in vs. 5?

What does James say will happen to those in humble circumstances vs. those who are rich? (verses 9-11)

HEAD CONTD.

What is the reward you see for persevering under trial? (verse 12)

Can God tempt us? Why do you think it might be important for us to recognize this truth?

James seems to give us a process of how we sin. What are the three steps you see in verses 14-15?



In verse 17, we see that every good thing comes from God. What is the ultimate gift God gives us (verse 18)? See also Ephesians 2:4-5.

HEART

How prepared do you feel to handle challenging circumstances with joy? What are some roadblocks that keep you from having joy in tough situations?

James seems to contrast someone who is “mature and complete, not lacking anything” (verse 4) with someone who is “double-minded and unstable in all they do”. As you look at your life with Jesus right now, which person do you identify with more?

What does it mean to be double-minded towards God? How have you seen that in your life?

HANDS

Jesus died and rose from the dead so we would no longer be “double-minded.” What part of your life (ex. worry, success, future, sexual purity, lack of trust, making disciples, time spent on phone, partying, etc.) do you want Jesus’ help in to make you more mature and complete? Spend some time with a friend asking God to give you wisdom in how to be more “mature and complete” in that area.

Do you see God as someone who gives you every good and perfect gift? Take some time and write down at least 10 things that are gifts from God.



 Scan here for further study!

WEEK 2

Moving on from the first half of Chapter 1, James continues to introduce more topics, this time focusing on different aspects of how to become spiritually mature or whole. He opens and closes with the importance of controlling our words, and the middle section provides one of the clearest teachings about why it is important to not just be familiar with God's Word, but to actually let it change how we act.

JAMES 1:19-27

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. 26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

HEAD

Write out the three commands given in verse 19. How do you think these three commands work together?

Brainstorm some examples of “moral filth and evil” that we might need to get rid of.

What do you think it means to “humbly accept the word planted in you”?

James talks about two different people in verses 23-25 to highlight the differences between two different ways of approaching God's Word. What are the differences between these two people?

In Luke 6:47-49, Jesus tells his own story about people who act on what they hear from him. What similarities do you see between this story and James 23-25? What differences?

HEAD CONTD.

What does James say makes someone's religion worthless? (verse 26)

What are the two things that God accepts as pure and faultless? (verse 27)

HEART

Read Proverbs 14:29. James and this proverb both seem to say that being patient in our responses can keep us from becoming angry. When is it challenging for you to keep from reacting in anger?

These encouragements to control our tongues, take care of the less fortunate, and keep ourselves from being polluted by the world are hard to live by. Which of these three areas could you grow the most in?

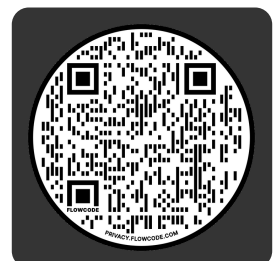
What hinders you from growing in this area?

HANDS

Who do you know that is a good listener? What qualities make them a good listener?

Brainstorm some practical things you can do to calm down when you find yourself getting angry.

CHALLENGE: Try to read the Bible every day this week and write down something that stood out to you that affects your daily life. When can you fit that into your schedule each day? Who can you ask to check on you to see if you are reading?



Scan here for further study!

WEEK 3

Now that we are done with Chapter 1 of James, we are getting into the individual mini-sermons that James gives on specific topics. This week focuses on the dangers of showing favoritism within the community of those who follow Jesus. As you read, think about how these verses relate to our modern world.

JAMES 2:1-13

1 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. **2** Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3** If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” **4** have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? **8** If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. **9** But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. **11** For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. **12** Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, **13** because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

HEAD

Based on the example given in verses 2-4, what do you think it means to show favoritism?

What does James have to say in verse 4 about those who show favoritism in the family of Jesus-followers?

What two things has God promised to those who are poor in the eyes of the world? (verse 5)

Why did God choose to show honor to the poor? You can find the answer in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

HEAD CONTD.

What does the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” have to do with showing favoritism?

Look up definitions for the words “mercy” and “judgement” and write them here. What do you think it means for mercy to triumph over judgement?

Write a list of all the reasons not to show favoritism based on this passage.

HEART

When in your life have you felt like someone else was being shown favoritism over you? What feelings did that bring up in you?

What might be some possible motives for people to show favoritism towards others?

How have you seen Christians showing favoritism in our world? What damage has that caused?

HANDS

Pray and ask God to bring to mind any situations in which you tend to show favoritism. Write them out here.

“Mercy triumphs over judgement” is an easy phrase to memorize and have in the back of our minds. Make a plan to remind yourself of this phrase each day this week and ask God to help engrain it into your heart.



 Scan here for further study!

WEEK 4

At the beginning of our study, we saw that the theme James wants us to see in his letter is the importance of spiritual maturity. He wants every aspect of our lives to be impacted by how we follow Jesus. The passage we are studying this week is one of the most practical arguments James gives for how God intends to change our hearts to make us more like Him.

JAMES 2:14-26

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

HEAD

Let's start with some definitions. Look up the words "faith" and "deeds" and write one for each below.

Faith -

Deeds -

Draw a box around the word "faith" each time it is used in this passage. Now draw a circle around the word "deeds" and each of its variations (deed, action, do/did) whenever used in the passage. What do you think the connection is, if any, between these two words?

What does James say is wrong with the response toward a person in need? (verses 15-16)

HEAD CONTD.

How does James say that faith is shown?

James says that the demons believe that “there is one God”. How does this belief of the demons differ from the faith that followers of Jesus have?

How would you summarize the main point of what James is saying in this passage?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. In Ephesians, Paul tells us that salvation does not come by works. How is it possible that these two texts go together?

HEART

Would you say that your faith (belief) in Jesus has had an impact on how you live your life? What has that looked like for you?

Do you know someone who is really strong in their faith? Who is it? How does their faith come out in what they do?

HANDS

Spend some time this week asking God to give you more faith. Are there any steps you want to take in your life that require faith?

In what ways are you struggling to believe God? (that He exists, that He is good, etc.) Look up verses that talk about these things for something to cling to whenever you have doubts.



 Scan here for further study!

WEEK 5

This week is all about how we speak. So much of how we relate to others is through our words - whether in person or digitally. James challenges us to have control over what we say. If we don't, our words will have control over us.

JAMES 3:1-12

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

HEAD

Who does James say will be judged more strictly (verse 1)? Why do you think that might be?

What does James say is the hardest part of our body to control? (verse 5)

What is the function of bits in horses and rudders on ships? Why does James compare our tongues to those things?

How many different metaphors does James use to describe the tongue? Is there a main theme between them all?

HEAD CONTD.

What do you think it means to tame the tongue?

HEART

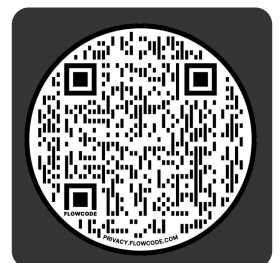
When have you been hurt by other people's words? How have you hurt others with your words?

Read Proverbs 16:24. Has anyone ever said anything to you or about you that felt sweet and healing to you?

HANDS

Read Ephesians 4:29. Does anything need to change in how you speak to others so it is a benefit to them?

CHALLENGE: The word "sarcasm" comes from two greek words that mean "tearing of flesh". Today, we define it as sharp, ironic remarks that cause pain to others. Sarcasm can be incredibly hurtful, even if it is funny. This week, ask God to help you eliminate all sarcasm from your speech and see how it goes!



Scan here for further study!

WEEK 6

This week, James is tackling the topic of wisdom. Specifically, he defines the difference between wisdom that comes from our world versus wisdom that comes from God. Again, this connects to his main theme of spiritual maturity. If we align ourselves with heavenly wisdom, we will become mature.

JAMES 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **15** Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. **17** But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **18** Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

HEAD

How do we determine who is wise versus who is unwise? (verse 13)

What are the two qualities of worldly wisdom that James mentions in verse 14 and again in verse 16? Look up the definitions for both of these qualities.

How do you see these two things create disorder and evil?

Look up definitions for the qualities of heavenly wisdom listed in verse 17.

Pure:

Peace-loving:

Considerate:

Submissive:

HEAD CONTD.

Merciful:

Impartial:

Sincere:

What is the result of someone who lives a life of peace? (verse 18)

HEART

Envy and selfish ambition are very common characteristics in our culture today. How do you see these qualities in your own life?

Which of the qualities of heavenly wisdom do you think you express the most?

As you think about the qualities of heavenly wisdom, can you think of someone who exhibits these qualities well? What is their story?

HANDS

Sometimes it is hard to know if we are following our own selfish ambition or if we are following God. Luckily, James 1:5 tells us that if we lack wisdom, we should ask God and He will give it to us! Spend some time this week asking God to give you wisdom about areas of your life that are more directed by selfish ambition than God.

Write down a friend that you see exhibiting one of the qualities of heavenly wisdom in verse 17. Find time to tell them this week that you see this quality exhibited in their life.



 Scan here for further study!

WEEK 7

This week, James teaches us all about how to handle our own desires and our thoughts about other people. Part of being spiritually whole and mature is submitting all of our desires and plans to God. As we study this week, let's open up our hearts and be prepared to respond to the ways God is speaking.

JAMES 4:1-17

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. 11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? 13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. 17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

HEAD

What seems to be the root cause of fighting among the people James is writing to? (verses 1-2)

What does James give as the solution to this fighting? (verse 3)

What do you think it means to have friendship with the world?

What does James give as the alternative to having friendship with the world? (verse 7-10)

HEAD CONTD.

How do you think a person humbles themselves before the Lord? It may be helpful to look up the definition for humility.

What does it mean to slander someone else?

Read Proverbs 3:5-6. How does this verse relate to verses 13-17?

HEART

James suggests that our sinful, selfish desires cause conflict with other people. Think of a time you have recently had conflict with another person. Are there any selfish desires you can identify within yourself that escalated that conflict?

Why do you think people are prone to cast judgement onto others?

Do you find it difficult to entrust your plans to God? If so, what makes that difficult for you?

HANDS

James says that the correct response to our own desires is to turn and ask God to meet them. What desires are in your heart that you want to talk to God about? Is there someone you can share those with?

Is there any particular area of your life you sense God is addressing from this passage?
What next step is He asking you to take?



Scan here for further study!

WEEK 8

This week, James introduces us to three different topics. First, he talks about the rich people who oppress the poor. Then, he talks about what it looks like to be patient waiting for the Lord to return. Lastly, he talks about enduring in the face of suffering.

JAMES 5:1-12

1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. 7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. 12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

HEAD

What wrong actions does James say the rich have committed? (verses 3-6)

Why do you think these actions are associated with rich people?

Do you think this curse that James gives is for all people who have money? Why or why not?

What does James say we should be waiting for? (verse 7)

What do you think it means to wait well for the Lord's coming?

HEAD CONTD.

What do you think it means to grumble against someone?

What does James say about God that allows us to persevere through suffering? Why do you think this is helpful for us to know? (verse 11)

HEART

Money is a huge motivator for people in many things they do. What does this passage make you think about the idea of having lots of money? What are some of the pitfalls to watch out for if you have lots of money?

It can be hard to imagine the concept of Jesus coming back to finally make all things new. Do you tend to think of yourself as someone who is waiting for the Lord to return? Why or why not?

Enduring through suffering is one of the hardest calls of a follower of Jesus. What truths can you hold onto to help you endure suffering?

HANDS

Do you know someone who is going through a rough time right now? Write down one way you could care for or encourage them.

CHALLENGE: Pray and ask God how you can use whatever money you have to bless others. When something comes to mind, step out in faith!



Scan here for further study!

WEEK 9

For our last week of James, he reminds us of the importance of prayer. He makes sure that we walk away from his letter knowing that one of the qualities of a mature follower of Jesus is that they are person of prayer.

JAMES 5:13-20

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. 19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

HEAD

As examples, James provides three circumstances in which someone should pray. What three examples does he give us? (verses 13-14)

Can you think of any other instances in which it might be good to pray?

What does James say is the result of confessing sin and praying for each other? (verse 16)

Are there any other stories from the Bible you can think of where God answers big prayers?

What do you think it means to “turn a sinner from the error of their way”? (verse 20)

HEART

When are the times you usually find yourself praying?

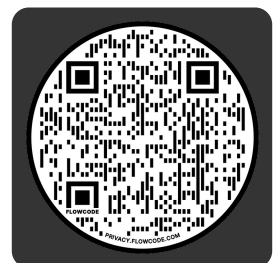
Have you ever prayed for something that God clearly answered? What was that like?

Is there anyone in your life who is far from God? Write their names here.

HANDS

This says "confess your sins to each other and pray for each other" - do you have this kind of relationship with anyone, either a peer or a mentor, who is walking with Jesus?

CHALLENGE: Pray every day this week for the people that you wrote down on the last heart question. Ask God to bring them close to Him!



Scan here for further study!

