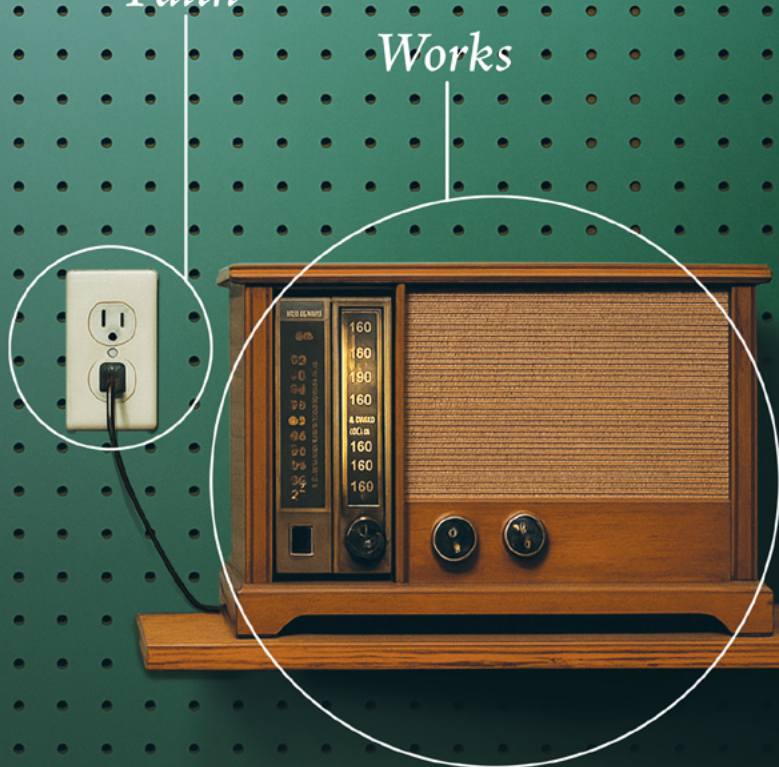


An 11-Week Bible Journal

JAMES

Faith

Works



JOSHUA DIGGS

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO



A devoted follower of Jesus

INDEX

WINTER - 2026

WELCOME TO THE BOOK OF JAMES

I'm so glad you're here.

Whether you've been walking with Jesus for years or you're just getting started, this new year series through James is going to steady your faith and give you handles for real life.

Over the next 11 weeks, the book of James will show us that real faith is practical; it is meant to shape your Monday, not just inspire your Sunday. This letter will challenge you, encourage you, and help you take your next right step with God.

Inside these pages, you'll find sermon notes to capture what God is teaching you, group discussion guides to grow deeper in community, and a 55-day daily Bible study to keep you rooted in truth between Sundays.

Lean in. Stay consistent. Invite God to move.

I'm thrilled to be on this journey with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Diggs". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being more prominent than the last name "Diggs".

Joshua Diggs
Teaching Minister

JAMES FACTS SHEET

AUTHOR: JAMES

James was Jesus' half-brother. He was a skeptic during Jesus' earthly ministry until the risen Jesus appeared to him. James later became the primary leader of the Jerusalem church and was clearly respected by Peter and Paul.

(Mark 6:3; Galatians 1:19; John 7:5;
1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 2:9;
Acts 15:6-21; Acts 21:18-18)

AUDIENCE: PERSECUTED JEWS SCATTERED FROM JERUSALEM

James writes "to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations." They were Jewish Christians who were forced to flee Jerusalem and the surrounding area as persecution intensified. This scattering is often called the *diaspora*, meaning God's people living away from their homeland, spread across other cities and regions.

(James 1:1; Acts 8)

BIG IDEA:

Listen to Jesus and do what he says.

DATE: AD 42-45

FUN FACTS

- James was probably the first New Testament book written.
- James was nicknamed "James the Just" for his integrity.
- James is one of Jesus' 4 brothers.



KEY DATES

**AD 33**

Jesus is crucified, risen from the dead, appears to James, and returns to heaven.

**AD 34**

James believes his half-brother, Jesus, is Lord and becomes a church leader in Jerusalem.

**AD 37**

Paul visits James in Jerusalem.

**AD 40-45**

James writes a letter that becomes the book of James.

**AD 46-47**

Paul visits churches around the Mediterranean.

**AD 49**

Peter, Paul, and James lead the first church counsel held in Jerusalem.

**AD 62-65**

James is killed for his faith.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BOOK OF JAMES

SUNDAY TEACHING

Commit to attend worship every Sunday at 9AM or 11:15AM during the series. Bring this journal with you to fill in your blanks.

SMALL GROUP

Join your small group each week (or start a new one) to discuss what God is showing you and how to put it into practice.

BIBLE JOURNAL DAILY

Take 10-minutes every Monday-Friday to read through the 55-day Bible reading plan. Use the S.O.A.P. Method to get the most out of it.

6 BIBLE STUDY TIPS

01. Schedule your reading. Pick a time and distraction-free place to be with God every day.

02. Pray before you read. Ask God to reveal his truths as you read.

03. Read with a Bible concordance. A Bible concordance is a list of Biblical words sorted alphabetically, with scriptures that include that word.

We recommend “The New Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible”

04. Read with a Bible commentary. Commentary Bibles allow us to gain a Bible scholar’s perspective on the scripture you are reading.

We recommend the “New Bible Commentary, 21st Century Edition” Edited By: Gordon J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson, R.T. France

05. Read with a friend. Read with someone that will hold you accountable to your daily reading.

06. Share what you are learning. Don’t just read it! Share how God’s word is speaking to you!

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

Items needed for each day:

- Bible
- Pencil
- Journal

Which verse stood out to you?

S - SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

What is God saying to you?

O - OBSERVATION

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

How can you apply it today?

A - APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

P - PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BROTHERS & SISTERS

Fellow believers; members of God's family, the church.

DOUBLE-MINDED

Divided loyalty that destabilizes faith and prayer.

FAITH

Trust in God that is meant to be lived, not merely claimed.

HUMILITY

Seeing yourself accurately according to what God says about you.

JUDGMENT

God's evaluation that warns against hypocrisy and harshness.

LAW OF LIBERTY

God's will that frees us to obey, and live as God intended.

MATURITY

Spiritual growth toward wholeness and Christlike character.

MERCY

God's kindness toward undeserving people expressed in forgiveness.

PRAYER

Talking to God through worship, confession, thanksgiving, request and intercession.

SAVED

Rescued by God from Satan, sin, and death through Jesus Christ.

RICH / POOR

Those who have / do not have the necessities of food, clothes, shelter.

SIN

Divided loyalty that destabilizes faith and prayer.

STUMBLE

Fail morally or spiritually, especially in speech and conduct.

TEMPTATION

An inner enticement (not God's doing) that leads toward sin.

TRIALS

Testing permitted by God that can refine faith and form character.

WISDOM

God-given discernment for living life rightly.

WORKS (DEEDS)

Deeds of obedience and love that flow from faith as its fruit and evidence.

Week

01

James 1:1-16

PT. 1: TEMPTED AND TRIED

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:1-16

MAIN POINT: TRIALS AND TEMPTATION ARE A PART OF LIFE.

TRIALS

- Trials happen to us
- We want to get out of trials
- Can mature us

TEMPTATIONS

- Come from within us
- We want to give in to temptation
- Can destroy us

FIVE WAYS TO FIGHT TEMPTATION

1. Take _____

- *...each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desires and enticed. (v.14)*
- It is more often a decision not the devil.
- You can't be free from what you won't own.
- Observations: _____

2. Take _____

- *Above all else, guard your heart. (Proverbs 4:23)*
- Protection = wise boundaries.
- Observations: _____

3. Take _____

- *Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed..* (James 5:16)
- You can't fight temptation in isolation.
- Healing happens in community.
- Observations: _____

4. Take a _____

- *...the sword of the Spirit.* (Ephesians 6:17)
- *Jesus answered [Satan], "It is written..."* (Matthew 4:4,7,10)
- God's Word is your weapon.
- Observations: _____

5. Take _____

- *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.* (Isaiah 40:31)
- The Hebrew word for "Wait" (qāvē) means to "braid together, to twist, or to bind tightly."
- When you "*wait on the Lord*," you are intertwining your life with God's strength.
- Wrap your life around something strong enough to pull you out of the temptation and keep you secure in the trial.
- Observations: _____

PT. 1: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith doesn't deny hardship; it learns to trust God through it.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:1–16



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's something hard you've done that you're now glad you didn't quit (training, school, a job, a relationship repair, etc.)? What did it produce in you?
2. If your life had a "stress test" label (like a product rating), what would it say right now—and why?



REFLECT (Read James 1:1-16 TOGETHER)

3. James says to "consider it pure joy" when we face trials (James 1:2). What do you think James means by joy—and what do you think he doesn't mean?
4. Read James 1:2–4. What does God want to produce through trials (steadfastness, maturity, wholeness)? Where have you seen that process in real life?
5. What kind of trial most tempts you to drift—pressure, uncertainty, disappointment, conflict, or something else? What does drifting usually look like for you?

6. Read James 1:5–8. Why do you think James connects trials with asking God for wisdom? What's the difference between asking God for answers and asking Him for wisdom?



TAKE ACTION

7. What is one “muscle” you sense God strengthening in you right now—patience, courage, humility, self-control, prayer, honesty, endurance?
8. James is practical—so get specific: what's one next step you can take this week to respond faithfully to your current pressure (a conversation, a boundary, a confession, a plan, a habit, a request for help)?
9. James 1:12 promises blessing for the one who perseveres. What makes perseverance hardest for you: time, loneliness, fear, fatigue, unanswered prayers, or something else? What support would actually help?
10. How can this group become a place where people can be honest about trials without being judged or rushed? What's one practice we can start (or restart) to carry each other?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Each day, pray this simple line from James 1:5: “God, I need wisdom today.” Then write down one wise step you’ll take before the day ends.
- Prayer: Pray for endurance with hope (James 1:2–4, 12): that God would mature your faith, give clarity for the next step, and help the group become a steady support for one another.

Day 01 **JAMES 1:1-3**

GO DEEPER

Romans 5:3-5

1 Peter 1:6-7

John 16:33

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 02
JAMES 1:4-5

GO DEEPER
PROVERBS 2:1-6
COLOSSIANS 1:9-10
PSALM 119:66

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 03
JAMES 1:6-8

GO DEEPER
Mark 11:22-24
Matthew 21:21-22
Hebrews 11:6

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 04

JAMES 1:9-11

GO DEEPER

1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10

LUKE 12:15

PROVERBS 11:28

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 05
JAMES 1:12

GO DEEPER
MATTHEW 5:10–12
REVELATION 2:10
2 TIMOTHY 4:7–8

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

02

James 1:19-22

PT. 2: QUICK, SLOW, SLOW

JAMES 1:19-22 *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 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. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

THREE KEYS TO RELATIONAL GROWTH

1. Be _____ to listen.

- “Put on your listening ears.”
- Great listeners are _____
- Great listeners ask good _____
- Observations: _____

2. Be _____ to speak.

- Fast to listen + slow to speak = few regrets
- Slow to listen + fast to speak = many regrets
- Exercise: Practice not interrupting
- Question: Why do i talk so much?
- Observations: _____

3. Be _____ to become angry.

- Question: What makes you angry?
- Anger reveals a lot about what we value.
- Unchecked anger affects health. It spikes heart rate, drops O2 levels, restricts arteries, and serotonin levels drop.
- Unchecked anger affects relationships.
- Observations: _____

THE ANTIDOTE WHEN WE'RE SLOW, QUICK, QUICK

- *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. (v. 21)*
- The antidote is _____ .

OTHER NOTES

PT. 2: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Healthy relationships grow when we listen fast, talk slow, and humble our anger.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:19–22



ICE-BREAKER

1. What is one “small habit” that made a big difference in your life (health, work, relationships, etc.)?
2. If you had a “relational dashboard” with three gauges (listening, speaking, anger) which one is most “in the red” lately, and why?



REFLECT (Read James 1:19–22 together)

3. James gives a simple rhythm: quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry (James 1:19–20). Which part of that rhythm is most challenging for you right now—and what do you think is underneath it?
4. Read James 1:19–20 again. Why does James connect anger to “the righteousness God desires”? What kind of damage can anger do even when you feel justified? (see also Proverbs 15:1)
5. In real conversations, what usually keeps you from being “quick to listen”? (distraction, defensiveness, needing control, fear of silence, etc.) How does that show up? (James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13)

6. James says to “humbly accept the word planted in you” (James 1:21). How does humility act like an antidote to bad listening, too much talking, or quick anger? (see also Philippians 2:3–4)



TAKE ACTION

7. Choose one focus for the week - listen fast, talk slow, or anger slow. What's one moment or relationship where you most need to practice it?

8. What's one practical habit you can try this week? Examples:
 - Ask 2 follow-up questions before you offer an opinion
 - Pause 3 seconds before replying
 - Don't interrupt; summarize what you heard first
 Which one will you try, and with whom?

9. Think of a time you handled a tense moment well—you stayed calm, listened, or chose your words carefully. What helped you respond that way, and how can you repeat that “win” the next time pressure rises?

10. What would change in your home, workplace, or friendships if you consistently lived James 1:19? What's one way this group can support that change (check-ins, prayer, role-play hard conversations, accountability)?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Pick one conversation each day to practice “Quick, Slow, Slow.”
 - **Before:** Pray, “God, help me listen.”
 - **During:** Ask one good question.
 - **After:** Reflect: “Did my words produce peace or regret?”

- Prayer: Pray for humility and self-control - that God would plant His word deeply, shape your tone, and help you become a person who brings peace into conversations.

Day 06

JAMES 1:13-16

GO DEEPER

Genesis 3:1-6

Proverbs 19:3

1 CORINTHIANS 10:12-13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 07
JAMES 1:17-18

GO DEEPER
John 1:12-13
Numbers 23:19
PsalM 136:1

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 08

JAMES 1:19-20

GO DEEPER

PROVERBS 14:29

ECCLESIASTES 7:9

EPHESIANS 4:26-27

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 09

JAMES 1:21-22

GO DEEPER

Matthew 7:24-25

Luke 11:28

Romans 2:13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 10

JAMES 1:23-25

GO DEEPER
2 CORINTHIANS 3:18
PSALM 19:7-8
JOHN 13:17

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

03

James 1:19-25

PT. 3: MIRROR, MIRROR

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19-25

MAIN POINT: CHANGE DOESN'T HAPPEN AUTOMATICALLY.

THREE STEPS TOWARDS CHANGE

1. Listen _____

- *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (v.22)*
- *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God...and it will be given to you. . (v.5)*
- Ask: What is God saying?
- Repetition builds remembrance.
- *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. (v.23-24)*
- Observations: _____

2. Look _____

- *...like someone who looks at his face in a mirror... (v.23)*
- Ask: What is God showing me?
- Key: Don't glance at God's Word. Gaze at God's Word
- Observations: _____

3. Act _____

- Ask: What can i do now?
- Information + _____ = Transformation
- Observations: _____

OTHER NOTES

[illegible]

PT. 3: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Change happens when we don't just hear God's Word. We look closely, see ourselves, and act on it.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:19–27



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's one habit you've successfully changed in the past (even a small one)? What helped it finally "stick"?
2. If mirrors help us see who we are, what "mirror" do people use today to measure how they're doing? Social media, comparison, success, opinions, something else?



REFLECT (Read James 1:19-27 together)

3. James warns that it's possible to listen but still be self-deceived (James 1:22). Where do you think people most commonly confuse information with transformation?
4. Read James 1:23–25. What's the difference between glancing at the mirror and looking intently into it? What might "looking intently" look like in real life? (See also Psalm 119:18)
5. James says the problem isn't always that we aren't looking. It's that we forget (James 1:23–24). What makes it easy for you to forget what God has shown you? (See also Deuteronomy 6:6–9)

6. James calls Scripture “the perfect law that gives freedom” and says we’re blessed in doing it (James 1:25). How does obedience lead to freedom, not just restriction? (See also John 8:31–32)



TAKE ACTION

7. If you asked, “What is God saying to me right now?” what’s one theme or nudge that keeps coming back?
8. What’s one simple way you can “gaze” this week instead of glance - read at the same time each day, journal one insight or one action step, read out loud, pray the text? Which will you choose?
9. Think of a time you did follow through on what God showed you - an apology, a boundary, generosity, resisting temptation, telling the truth. What helped you act, and how can you build that pattern again this week?
10. What would shift in our group if we became the kind of people who don’t just discuss Scripture but actually do it? How can we help each other close the “action gap” without shame?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Use a “Mirror Method” 5 days this week:
 1. Read James 1:22–25
 2. Ask: What is God saying?
 3. Ask: What is God showing in me?
 4. Choose one action within 24 hours.
- Prayer: Pray for a responsive heart: that God would help you see clearly, remember faithfully, and obey quickly, trusting that His Word leads to freedom.

Day 11
JAMES 1:26-27

GO DEEPER
Місак 6:8
Isaiah 1:16–17
Matthew 25:35–40

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 12
JAMES 2:1

GO DEEPER
Leviticus 19:15
Acts 10:34–35
Deuteronomy 10:17

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 13

JAMES 2:2-4

GO DEEPER

1 Samuel 16:7
Proverbs 24:23
Luke 20:21

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 14
JAMES 2:5-7

GO DEEPER

LUKE 6:20
1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29
PSALM 72:12-13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 15
JAMES 2:8-9

GO DEEPER
LUKE 6:20
1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29
PSALM 72:12-13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

04

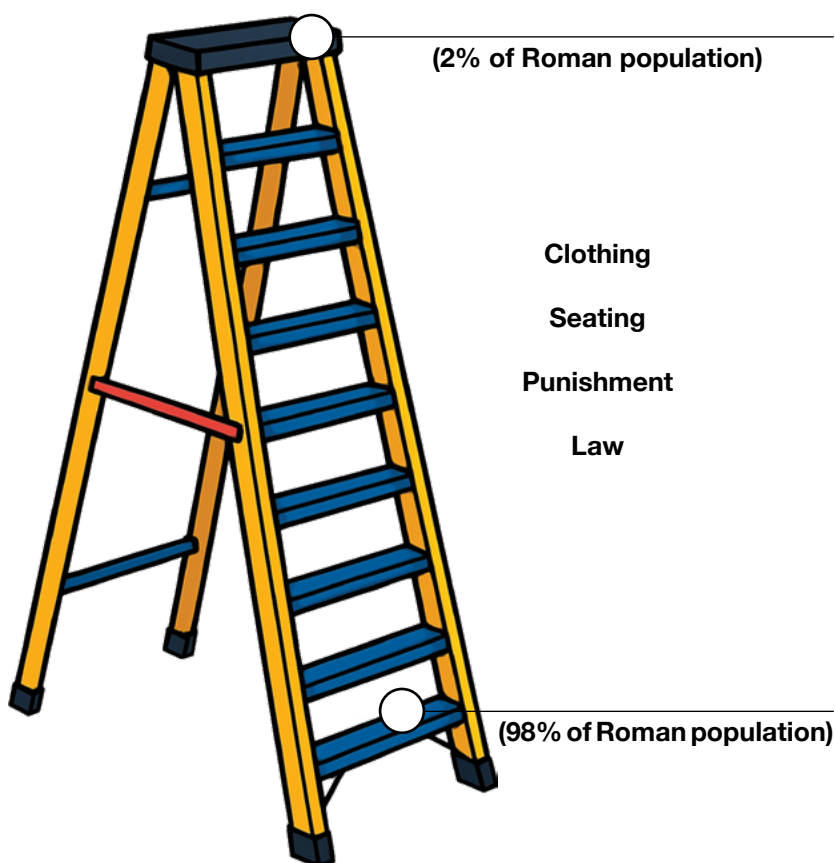
James 1:27-2:17

PT. 4: GOD'S FAVORITE

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:9-11 & 1:27-2:17

MAIN POINT: REAL FAITH REFUSES TO SHOW FAVORITISM.

LADDER OF STATUS



THE NEW KINGDOM COMMUNITY

1. Elevates _____
2. Elevates the _____
3. Elevates the _____
4. Because God _____
 - *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... (John 1:14)*
 - *The Son of Man... descended from heaven. (John 3:14)*
 - *...though he was rich, he became poor...so that you...might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)*
 - *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
 - *...God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus... (Ephesians 2:6)*

OTHER NOTES

[illegible]

PT. 4: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith treats every person as priceless because God shows no favoritism.

SCRIPTURE:

James 1:27 - 2:17



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's the nicest or most unexpected welcome you've ever received? What made it feel meaningful?
2. If the American church had a "social ladder" like the world, what would the rungs be made of today? Money, influence, education, politics, popularity, something else?



REFLECT (Read James 1:27-2:17 TOGETHER)

3. James says we must not combine faith in Jesus with favoritism (James 2:1). Why do you think favoritism is such a big deal to God? (Acts 10:34–35)?
4. Read James 2:2–4. What does the "good seat" versus "sit on the floor" moment reveal about the human heart? Where do you see this kind of ranking show up in everyday life? (See also Leviticus 19:15)
5. James says God has chosen the poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith (James 2:5). What makes it difficult to value people the way God values them? (See also James 1:9–11)

6. James connects pure religion with caring for vulnerable people and staying unstained by the world (James 1:27). How does God's heart for the vulnerable reshape the way we see "important" and "unimportant" people? (Psalm 68:5)



TAKE ACTION

7. Ask yourself this week: "Who do I naturally notice first, and who do I naturally overlook?" What is one way God might be inviting you to grow in how you see people?
8. What is one concrete "down-the-ladder" move you can make this week? For example: sit with someone new, invite someone over, learn a name, help without seeking anything in return.
9. Think of a moment when you felt truly seen and honored by someone who had nothing to gain from you. What did they do, and how could you pass that same kind of welcome to someone else this week?
10. What would be different in our church if the rich and poor, strong and struggling, insider and outsider all felt equally wanted here? What can this group do to model that kind of community?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Practice the "Great Inversion" once per day this week: choose one person you might normally overlook, and offer a simple act of dignity. Learn their name, listen to their story, pray for them, or serve them.
- Prayer: Pray that God would remove prejudice and train our eyes to see the "Ming-vase value" of every person, and that our faith would become visible through love and action.

Day 16

JAMES 2:10-11

GO DEEPER
Galatians 3:10
Deuteronomy 27:26
Romans 7:12

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 17
JAMES 2:12-13

GO DEEPER
Matthew 18:32-35
Hosea 6:6
Luke 6:36

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 18

JAMES 2:14-17

GO DEEPER

1 John 3:16-18

Ezekiel 33:31

Titus 3:8

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 19
JAMES 2:18-19

GO DEEPER
Matthew 7:16–18
John 15:8
Romans 1:16

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 20

JAMES 2:20-23

GO DEEPER

Genesis 22:9–12
Hebrews 11:17–19
Romans 4:20–22

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

05

James 2:14-26

PT. 5: FAITH & DEEDS

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 2:14-26

MAIN POINT: REAL FAITH LEADS TO GOOD DEEDS.

THE DIVINE ORDER



Warning: Don't reverse the order.

THREE TYPES OF "SAVED"

- *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? (v.14)*

1. Past Salvation: _____ you
 2. Present Salvation: _____ you
 3. Future Salvation: Fully _____ you
- Observations: _____

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT FAITH AND DEEDS

1. Real faith can't do everything,
but it can do _____
 - James 2:15-17
2. Right believing leads to right _____
 - James 2:18-19
3. Real faith loves the _____
more than the promise.
 - James 2:20-24
4. Your _____ outweighs your practice.
 - James 2:25-26

OTHER NOTES

PT. 5: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith is not just something you claim.
It is something that moves into action.

SCRIPTURE:

James 2:14–26



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's something you used to say you believed as a kid, but you only really "believed" it once you acted on it (like riding a bike, saving money, trusting a coach)?
2. If faith had a "motion sensor," what kinds of actions would prove it is actually alive?



REFLECT (Read James 2:14-26 TOGETHER)

3. James asks, "Can such faith save them?" (James 2:14). In your own words, what kind of "faith" is James challenging here? (See also James 2:17)
4. Read James 2:15–17. Why does James use such a practical example (food and clothing) to talk about faith? What does this reveal about how God wants faith to work in everyday life? (See also 1 John 3:16–18)
5. James says faith without action is dead (James 2:17, 26). What are some reasons people can sincerely believe, but still struggle to take action? (See also Matthew 7:21)

6. The sermon emphasized God's order: grace leads, faith receives, and works follow. How does remembering that order protect us from guilt, legalism, or burnout? (Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:5)



TAKE ACTION

7. James says, “I will show you my faith by my deeds” (James 2:18). What is one area where you want your faith to become more visible: generosity, serving, forgiveness, courage, integrity, compassion? (See Galatians 5:6)
8. James says real faith can't do everything, but it does something. What is one “something” you can do this week for a person in need, a coworker, a neighbor, or someone in your group? (James 2:15–16; Hebrews 13:16)
9. Think of a time you stepped out in obedience and God met you in it. What did you learn about God, and what might that same lesson look like in your life right now? (James 2:22; Philipians 4:13)
10. What would change in our church and city if more believers lived a faith that “works” in public and private? How can our group encourage action without becoming performative or judgmental?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Choose one action that matches your faith this week. Write it down, pray over it, and do it within 48 hours. Then share what happened with the group next time.
- Prayer: Pray for a living faith that trusts Jesus deeply and moves outward in love. Ask God to open your eyes to one person to serve and give you the courage to act.

Day 21 **JAMES 2:24**

GO DEEPER
MATTHEW 25:21
PHILIPPIANS 2:12
JOHN 14:15

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 22
JAMES 2:25

GO DEEPER

JOSHUA 2:8–11
HEBREWS 11:31
EXODUS 1:17

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 23

JAMES 2:26

GO DEEPER

GALATIANS 2:20

ROMANS 8:10

JOHN 6:63

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 24
JAMES 3:1

GO DEEPER

Luke 12:48
Ezekiel 3:17–18
Hebrews 13:17

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 25

JAMES 3:2

GO DEEPER
PROVERBS 10:19
PSALM 141:3
COLOSSIANS 4:6

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

06

James 3:1-12

PT. 6: TAMING THE TONGUE

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:1-12

MAIN POINT: A SMALL ADJUSTMENT CAN LEAD TO A BIG CHANGE.

A WORD TO ASPIRING TEACHERS (v.1-2)

- *Not many of you should become teachers... because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. (v.1)*
1. Be _____
 2. Be _____
 3. Be _____

POWER OF THE TONGUE (v.3-12)

1. The tongue _____
 - *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.? (v.14)*
 - If you don't like the direction of your life, ask: which way is my tongue steering?
 - Observations: _____

2. The tongue _____

- *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. (v.5-8)*

- *The tongue has the power of life and death... (Proverbs 18:21)*

- Observations: _____

3. The tongue _____

- *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. (v.9-12)*

- *"Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks."*
(Matthew 12:34)

- Observations: _____

PT. 6: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Small words can shape big outcomes,
so real faith learns to speak like Jesus.

SCRIPTURE:

James 3:1–12



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's a phrase someone once said to you that you still remember because it helped you?
2. If your words this week were turned into a "book," what genre would it be. Encouragement, comedy, complaint, suspense, hope, drama?



REFLECT (Read MATTHEW 16:13–18 TOGETHER)

3. James says the tongue is small but powerful (James 3:5). Why do you think God cares so much about what comes out of our mouths? (Proverbs 18:21)
4. Read James 3:3–4. What do the bit and rudder teach us about the direction of a life? Where have you seen words steer a relationship or season in a good direction? (Also Proverbs 13:3)
5. James compares the tongue to a fire that can set a whole forest ablaze (James 3:5–6). What kinds of words tend to start the biggest relational fires. Criticism, sarcasm, exaggeration, gossip, defensiveness, something else? (See also Ephesians 4:29)

6. James says our mouths can praise God and curse people made in God's likeness, and that "this should not be" (James 3:9–10). What does this teach us about the connection between worship and how we treat people? (See also Matthew 12:34)



TAKE ACTION

7. Which of the three powers of the tongue do you most need God's help with right now. Directing, destroying, or defining? Why? (James 3:3–6; Psalm 141:3)
8. What is one "small adjustment" you can make this week to tame your tongue. For example: pause before replying, pray before sending, replace criticism with curiosity, or speak one specific encouragement daily. (James 3:2; Proverbs 15:1)
9. Think of a conversation coming up this week where your words really matter. What would it look like to speak truth with grace in that moment, and what might you say differently than you normally would? (Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 4:6)
10. What would change in our group if our default language became life-giving. How can we help each other build a culture where people feel safe, strengthened, and challenged in love? (Proverbs 18:21)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Try a "Words Audit" for five days: at the end of each day, write down one sentence you wish you could take back and one sentence you're glad you spoke. Ask God to reshape tomorrow's words.
- Prayer: Pray for clean hearts and wise words, that God would set a guard over our mouths and make our speech a source of life to others.

Day 26

JAMES 3:3-5

GO DEEPER
PROVERBS 18:21
MATTHEW 12:34-35
PSALM 34:12-13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 27

JAMES 3:5-6

GO DEEPER
PROVERBS 16:27
PSALM 52:2-4
JEREMIAH 9:8

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 28

JAMES 3:7-8

GO DEEPER
Romans 3:13-14
Isaiah 6:5
PsalM 39:1

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 29
JAMES 3:9-10

GO DEEPER

LUKE 6:45
EPHESIANS 4:29
PROVERBS 15:4

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 30 **JAMES 3:11-12**

GO DEEPER
MATTHEW 7:17-18
JOHN 15:4-5
PROVERBS 4:23

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

07

James 3:13-4:2

PT. 7: TRUE WISDOM


SCRIPTURE: **JAMES 3:13-4:2**

MAIN POINT: **THE WISDOM YOU USE
 DEFINES THE PATH YOU CHOOSE.**

WHAT IS WISDOM?

- 1. Wisdom is a blend of knowledge, experience, and understanding.
- 2. Wisdom is “skillful living.”
- 3. Wisdom is _____ to all.
- *...give your servant a discerning heart... to distinguish between right and wrong.* (Solomon, 1 Kings 3:9)

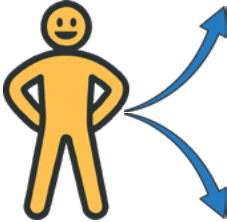
TWO TYPES OF “WISDOM” (v.3-12)



1. _____
→ _____

2. _____
→ _____


3. _____
→ _____



1. _____
→ _____

2. _____
→ _____

3. _____
→ _____



HOW MOST PEOPLE MAKE DECISIONS

Most people ask:

- Is it moral
-
- Is it ethical
-
- Is it legal

THE BEST QUESTION EVER (ANDY STANLEY)

Based on...

...my _____ experiences

...my _____ circumstances

...my _____ hopes, dreams, and goals

...what is the wise thing for me to do?

OTHER NOTES

PT. 7: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith chooses the wisdom from above, not the wisdom that centers on self.

SCRIPTURE:

James 3:13–4:2



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's one decision you made that seemed small in the moment but had a big impact later?
2. If wisdom had a “warning label,” what would it say to you right now?



REFLECT (Read James 3:13-4:2 together)

3. James asks, “Who is wise and understanding among you?” (James 3:13). How does James define wisdom, and how is that different from just being smart? (See also Proverbs 9:10)
4. James contrasts two kinds of “wisdom” (James 3:14–17). What stands out to you most about the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?
5. James says envy and selfish ambition lead to disorder (James 3:16). Where do you most feel that inner “battle” show up in real life: relationships, work, money, comparison, control, or something else? (See also James 4:1–2)

6. James says, “You do not have because you do not ask God” (James 4:2). Why do you think asking God is such a key part of living wisely? (See also James 1:5)



TAKE ACTION

7. Look at the “wisdom from heaven” list in James 3:17. Which one quality do you most want to grow in right now: pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, full of good fruit, impartial, sincere? (See also Galatians 5:22–23)
8. This week, try asking the “best question ever”: “In light of my past experiences, my present circumstances, and my future hopes, dreams, and goals, what is the wise thing for me to do?” Where do you most need that question right now: time, money, relationships, habits, or a major decision?
9. Think of one decision you’re facing. What would “wisdom from above” look like in the next step, and what would “earthly wisdom” look like? What is one small move you can make toward the wise path this week?
10. James says peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness (James 3:18). What would it look like for our group to be a community of peacemakers, and how could that change our homes and friendships?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Each morning this week, ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) and then practice one “wisdom from above” trait from James 3:17 on purpose that day.
- Prayer: Pray for hearts shaped by heaven’s wisdom, not envy or selfish ambition, and for peace to grow wherever we live and lead.

Day 31

JAMES 3:13

GO DEEPER

PROVERBS 11:2

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

TITUS 2:11-12

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 32

JAMES 3:14

GO DEEPER

GALATIANS 5:19–21

PROVERBS 26:12

JEREMIAH 17:9

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 33

JAMES 3:15-16

GO DEEPER
1 CORINTHIANS 3:3
COLOSSIANS 2:8
PROVERBS 13:10

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 34

JAMES 3:17

GO DEEPER

1 CORINTHIANS 3:3
COLOSSIANS 2:8
PROVERBS 13:10

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 35

JAMES 3:18

GO DEEPER

MATTHEW 5:9
ROMANS 12:18
HEBREWS 12:11

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

08

James 4:1-12

PT. 8: PRIDE & HUMILITY

SCRIPTURE: **JAMES 4:1-12**

MAIN POINT: **SUBMISSION FIXES PRIDE’S BROKEN POSTURE.**

SUBMISSION...

NOT

- Being a doormat
- Enduring abuse
- Blaming others for your choices

IS

- Choosing God’s way over your way
- Choosing the right action over your real emotions
- Choosing love over hate

THREE WAYS SUBMISSION OVERCOMES PRIDE

1. Submission overcome _____
- *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. (v.1-3)*
 - Point: Fights and quarrels among you come from the battle within you.
 - Selfishness shapes our prayers.
 - Generosity is the antidote to selfishness.
 - Observations: _____

2. Submission overcomes _____

- *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." (v.4-6)*
- "Adultery" refers to sin because God describes our relationship with Him as a marriage.
- Pride thinks that God is lucky to have some of me.
- "Jealousy" isn't God's insecurity; it's His covenantly love.
- Observations: _____

3. Submission overcomes _____

- *¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister[d] 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? (v.11-12)*
- "Slander" includes false statements and dishonoring words.
- Observations: _____

PT. 8: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith shifts from pride to submission.

SCRIPTURE:

James 4:1–12



ICE-BREAKER

1. When have you experienced the relief of a “small adjustment” that made a big difference (health, schedule, attitude, relationship)?
2. If pride and humility had physical postures, what would each look like in a room?



REFLECT (Read James 4:1-12 TOGETHER)

3. James says, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble” (James 4:6). What does that tell you about how seriously God takes our posture toward Him? (See also 1 Peter 5:5–6)
4. James lays out a path: submit to God, resist the devil, come near to God, and He will come near to you (James 4:7–8). Which part of that sequence feels most important for you right now, and why?
5. James connects conflict to desires battling within us (James 4:1–3). Where do you most notice that inner battle spilling outward: arguments, impatience, resentment, comparison, control, or something else? (See also Galatians 5:16–17)

6. James says, “Come near to God and He will come near to you” (James 4:8). What helps you believe God actually wants closeness with you, even when you feel distant or ashamed? (See also Luke 15:20)



TAKE ACTION

7. Which “posture shift” do you most need this week: choosing God’s way over your way, choosing the right action over real emotions, or choosing love over hate? (See also Romans 12:1–2)
8. James calls us to humble ourselves and submit (James 4:7–10). What is one practical act of submission you can take in the next 24 hours: apologize, confess, forgive, ask for help, delete a tempting app, set a boundary, or pray before reacting? (See also Psalm 139:23–24)
9. Think of one area where you feel spiritually “stiff-necked,” like it’s hard to bend or change. What would a small step of softness look like, and who could help you take it? (See also Proverbs 3:5–6)
10. What would change in our group if we practiced humility in the way we speak, disagree, and repair conflict? How can we create a culture where repentance feels normal and grace feels real?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Practice James 4:8 daily this week. Take five minutes to draw near to God through prayer and Scripture, then take one humble action that matches what God shows you.
- Prayer: Pray for God to loosen the stiff places in us, replace pride with humility, and teach us to submit so that He can lift us up in His time.

Day 36

JAMES 4:1-2a

GO DEEPER
Galatians 5:16-17
Proverbs 13:10
Titus 3:3

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 37

JAMES 4:2B-3

GO DEEPER
Matthew 6:7-8
John 15:7
Psalm 66:18

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 38

JAMES 4:4-5

GO DEEPER

1 John 2:15-17

Hosea 3:1

Exodus 34:14

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 39

JAMES 4:6

GO DEEPER
Proverbs 3:34
Isaiah 66:2
Luke 14:11

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 40
JAMES 4:7-8a

GO DEEPER
Proverbs 3:34
Isaiah 66:2
Luke 14:11

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

09

James 4:13-17

PT. 9: PLANNING ON GOD

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 4:13-17

MAIN POINT: WE PLAN FOR WHAT MATTERS MOST.

WHEN YOU PLAN

1. Plan with _____

- *As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. (v.16)*
- Military leaders would “boast” in their forces before a battle to rally their troops to fight. They encouraged their soldiers to trust their battle plan for victory.
- Key Question: Where do you put your trust?
- Observations: _____

2. Plan in view of _____

- *What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (v.14)*
- “Mist” describes a short period of time.
- The longest life and the greatest legacy are still merely a mist.
- Observations: _____

3. Plan for God's _____

- *...you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'* (v.15)
- Christians plan based on conviction, not convenience.
- God's will may take you where you do not want to go, but it will always be where you need to be.
- Observations: _____

4. Plan to do _____

- *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.* (v.17)
- The 2 types of sin:
 01. Sins of _____. Doing what is wrong.
 02. Sins of _____. Failing to do what is right.
- Observations: _____

5. Plan without _____

- *"Do not worry about tomorrow."* (Matthew 6:34)
- Truth: God is already in all of your tomorrows.
- Observations: _____

PT. 9: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith plans wisely, but trusts Jesus with the future and obeys God today.

SCRIPTURE:

James 4:13–17



ICE-BREAKER

1. Are you more of a planner or more spontaneous? What is one thing you always plan for because it matters to you?
2. If your calendar could talk, what would it say you value most right now?



REFLECT (Read James 4:13-17 TOGETHER)

3. James confronts confident planning that leaves God out (James 4:13–16). What is the difference between wise planning and prideful planning? (See also Proverbs 16:9)
4. James asks, “What is your life? You are a mist” (James 4:14). How does remembering life’s brevity change the way you think about your time, priorities, and stress? (See also Psalm 90:12)
5. James says our boasting can reveal misplaced confidence (James 4:16). Where are you most tempted to place confidence in your plan instead of in Jesus: money, control, routines, work, health, or something else? (See also Jeremiah 17:7–8)

6. James points us toward a posture of surrender, *“If it is the Lord’s will...”* (James 4:15). What do you think it looks like to live that as a conviction, not a cliché? (See also Romans 12:2)



TAKE ACTION

7. What is one area of your “Tuesday faith” where you want to trust Jesus more than your strategy: work, parenting, relationships, finances, health, decisions, or anxiety? (See also Philippians 4:6–7)
8. What is one way you can invite God into your planning this week: praying before scheduling, leaving margin, seeking counsel, writing plans in pencil, or asking God what obedience looks like today? (See also Proverbs 3:5–6)
9. James says knowing the good you ought to do and not doing it is sin (James 4:17). What is one good step you already know you should take, and what would help you move from intention to action this week? (See also Galatians 6:9–10)
10. How could this group help each other live with conviction and courage, not convenience? What would it look like to encourage obedience and trust when plans change?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Each morning, pray: “Lord, let Your will lead my plans today.” Then choose one obedient step you know God is calling you to take, and do it within 24 hours.
- Prayer: Pray for surrendered hearts and steady trust, that God would free us from anxious control and help us live faithfully today while trusting Him with tomorrow.

Day 41 **JAMES 4:8B-10**

GO DEEPER
Psalm 51:10–12
Joel 2:12–13
Lamentations 3:40

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 42

JAMES 4:11-12

GO DEEPER
MATTHEW 7:1-2
ROMANS 14:4
PROVERBS 21:2

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 43

JAMES 4:13-16

GO DEEPER
MATTHEW 7:1-2
ROMANS 14:4
PROVERBS 21:2

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 44

JAMES 4:17

GO DEEPER

Luke 12:47
Numbers 15:30
Ezekiel 33:6

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 45

JAMES 5:1-3

GO DEEPER

Luke 12:47
Numbers 15:30
Ezekiel 33:6

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

10

James 5:1-12

PT. 10: USE IT WELL

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 5:1-12

MAIN POINT: REAL FAITH TRUSTS IN GOD, NOT RICHES.

WHAT DEFINES “RICH”?

- In James’ day, most people had enough food for today.
Rich people had enough food for today and _____.
- “Give us today our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)
- *But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.*
(1 Timothy 6:8)

Biblical definition: a rich person can cover the _____.

THE ISSUE ISN’T WEALTH; IT’S MISPLACED PRIORITIES

- The love of money is the root of all evil. (1 Timothy 6:10)
- “weep and wail...” (v.1) because of your misplaced priorities.

THE PROPER ORDER OF MONEY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

A PICTURE OF DISORDERED PRIORITIES

- *Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. (v.2-3)*
- Uneaten food rots, unworn clothes are moth-eaten, and unused money corrodes.
- Point: God's financial gifts have a shelf life.

THE RICH WHO TRUST IN GOD

1. Give _____
2. Live within _____
3. Enjoy God's _____

HOW TO GO FROM GREEDY TO GENEROUS

- *You have hoarded wealth in the last days. (v.3)*
- "Last days": The time between Jesus' birth and second coming.
- Generous people know Jesus may _____ any day.
- *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.. (v.7)*

OTHER NOTES

PT. 10: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Real faith trusts God, not riches, and uses what we have for what lasts.

SCRIPTURE:

James 5:1–12



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's something you used to really want that doesn't matter to you much anymore?
2. If your spending habits could preach a sermon, what would the title be?



REFLECT (Read James 5:1-12 together)

3. James warns the rich about wealth that rots and corrodes (James 5:1–3). What do you think James is exposing beneath the surface of “nice looking” lives? (See also Luke 12:15)
4. In James 5:4–6, James highlights hoarding and injustice. What does this passage teach us about the spiritual danger of using money only for ourselves? (See also 1 Timothy 6:17–19)
5. The sermon defined “rich” as having more than necessities. How does that definition challenge the way you normally think about wealth and contentment? (See also 1 Timothy 6:8)

6. James frames this with “the last days” and the Lord’s coming (James 5:3, 7). How does living with Jesus’ return in view change how we hold money, possessions, and priorities? (See also Matthew 6:19–21)



TAKE ACTION

7. What is one area where you feel your grip tighten most easily: fear of the future, comparison, comfort, control, or generosity? What might God be inviting you to trust Him with? (See also Philippians 4:19)
8. The biblical priority order for what we own is God first, then marriage, family, community, then enjoy the rest. What is one adjustment you could make this month to better align your money and time with that order? (See also Proverbs 3:9)
9. Think of a time generosity felt costly but brought joy or freedom. What happened, and what is one “open-handed” decision you could make this week? (See also 2 Corinthians 9:7)
10. If our church lived more open-handed, who in our city would feel it first? What is one way our group could practice generosity together, not just individually?



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Do one act of intentional generosity this week. Give first, not last. Then reflect: what did that reveal about what you trust?
- Prayer: Pray for contentment, courage, and clear priorities. Ask God to free you from “wealth rot” and help you to invest in what lasts. (See also James 5:1–3; Matthew 6:19–21)

Day 46
JAMES 5:4

GO DEEPER
Amos 5:11–12
Exodus 22:22–24
Malachi 3:5

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 47
JAMES 5:7-8

GO DEEPER
Romans 8:24-25
Hebrews 10:36
Наваккук 2:3

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 48
JAMES 5:9-11

GO DEEPER

JOB 42:10-12

Psalm 103:8

Hebrews 6:15

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 49

JAMES 5:12

GO DEEPER

matthew 5:37
Proverbs 12:22
Ecclesiastes 5:2

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 50

JAMES 5:13-14

GO DEEPER
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7
PSALM 34:19
MARK 6:13

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Week

11

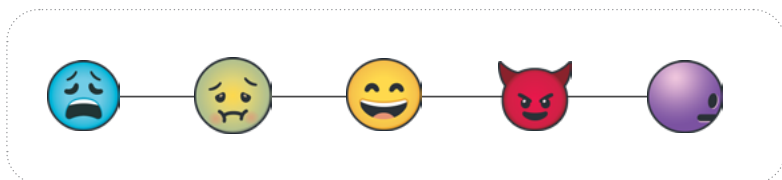
James 5:13-20

PT. 11: THE PRAYER OF POWER

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 5:13-20

MAIN POINT: PRAYER ISN'T OUR LAST RESORT,
IT'S OUR FIRST RESPONSE.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU ARE...



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. (v.13)*

- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone happy? ...sing songs of praise. (v.13)*

- Worship isn't weakness, it's a weapon.
- Worship restores memories.
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil...* (v.14)
- Oil is practical (it soothes) and symbolic (seeking God's help).
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.* (v.16)
- We confess to God for forgiveness.
- We confess to one another for healing.
- Observations: _____



_____ > _____

- *If one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring them back...* (v.19)
- "Someone" means all Christians are called to restore.
- "Truth" isn't just an idea; it's a person - Jesus (John 14:6)
- Observations: _____

FINAL TRUTH: RIGHTEOUS = POWER | RIGHTEOUS ≠ PERFECT

- *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* (v.16b)

PT. 11: GROUP GUIDE

THEME:

Wherever you are, prayer is your next step, and God still answers.

SCRIPTURE:

James 5:13–20



ICE-BREAKER

1. Which one are you most like today: happy, troubled, sick, or a bit numb towards God? What's one word that describes why?
2. If your prayer life had a “default setting,” what would it be: pray first, pray last, pray only when desperate, pray steadily?



REFLECT (Read James 5:13-20 TOGETHER)

3. James gives a simple response for each season in James 5:13–16. What do you notice about how practical and specific James is about prayer? (See also Philippians 4:6)
4. James says, “*Is anyone in trouble? Let them pray... Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise*” (James 5:13). Why do you think James pairs prayer with trouble and praise with joy?
5. James says the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16). What keeps people from praying boldly - discouragement, shame, distraction, disappointment, busyness, or something else? (See also Hebrews 4:16)

6. James teaches that God listens and responds, and he uses Elijah as proof (James 5:17–18). What does Elijah’s example tell you about who prayer is really about? (See also 1 Kings 18:36–39)



TAKE ACTION

7. Which response from the passage do you need most right now: pray in trouble, sing in joy, ask for prayer when sick, confess for healing, or restore someone who is drifting? (See also James 5:13–20)
8. What is one concrete prayer step you can take this week: set a daily time, pray out loud with someone, ask your group for prayer, write a short prayer, or replace one worry moment with a prayer moment? (See also Matthew 6:34)
9. James connects confession and healing (James 5:16). What would it look like to bring one struggle into the light with a trusted person, and what kind of support would help you take that step safely? (See 1 John 1:9)
10. James says when someone wanders, “someone” should help bring them back (James 5:19–20). What could it look like for this group to become a place of rescue, not judgment, where people are pursued with love? (See also Galatians 6:1–2)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- Practice: Use the “Prayer Chart” this week. Each day, name your current season and take the matching step from James 5:
 1. Trouble > pray
 2. Happy > sing praise
 3. Sick > ask for prayer
 4. Sin > confess
 5. Wandering > restore
- Prayer: Pray that we would become people who pray first, not last, and that God would make our group a safe place for healing, honesty, and restoration.

Day 51
JAMES 5:15-16

GO DEEPER
1 JOHN 1:7
PROVERBS 28:13
PSALM 32:3-5

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 52

JAMES 5:17-18

GO DEEPER

1 JOHN 1:7
PROVERBS 28:13
PSALM 32:3-5

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 53
JAMES 5:19-20

GO DEEPER

Galatians 6:1
Ezekiel 34:16
Luke 15:4-6

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 54

REVIEW CH.1-3

Write down and reflect on one verse from chapters 1-3 that most stood out to you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Day 55

REVIEW CH. 4-5

Write down and
reflect on one verse
from chapters 1-3 that
most stood out to you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

Personal

NOTES

THE BOOK OF JAMES

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