

Have you ever heard James quoted when someone is sharing the Gospel? Probably not? Is it brought up when discussing doctrinal issues? Not usually? Is James a book that you see listed as a series of weekly Sunday sermons? You don't find it there either?

Then why do we even take the time to study it? It doesn't seem to be all that important! On the contrary! James should be a book that in a primary text for every new believer. It should be taught to our children in our Sunday schools. Every believer who longs to know what it means to live out your faith on a daily basis needs to study this book. James describes what true faith looks like. How it acts. What it does in a believer's life. It will show how vitally important it is to live out what you believe.

We have seen huge changes in our world over the last couple of years. We are careening down the path to destruction and the signs are evident. We are living in an age of apathy, apostasy, and anarchy (lawlessness)! Everybody does what is right in their own eyes, yet in God's eyes it is outright evil. Where are the Christian voices that shout out for truth? Where are the parents crying out to protect their children from Satan's attack on their God given sexuality? Our children go to war zones called schools. Here they are shot at, told they came from monkeys; they are nothing more than animals; they are confused about their sex; God is some dead, antiquated idea that needs to be suppressed; truth is up to each person's own interpretation. Then we wonder why our children are confused, upset, depressed, and anxious.

People, especially those in the church are so tangled up in the affairs of everyday life that they don't have time to study the Bible. Denying ones self and discipling our lives is a thing of the past. We all need to be able to express ourselves and make ourselves happy no matter who we may offend in the process. You just need to be tolerant of me (even though I don't need to be tolerant of you)!

We need truth restored in our lives. We need to see what God has to say about the world in which we live. We need to understand how we are to act in the midst of the perverse society of today. People are crying out for answers, but it seems like the watchmen on the walls are silent.

Let's ground ourselves in truth and shout it from the rooftops. Let God's Word richly dwell in your hearts and minds and become God's spokesman of truth. John 8:31 says, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine." We cannot call ourselves His disciples if we are not continuing (living according) in His Word.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

Remember that you have two days to complete this assignment.

Inductive Bible study is a process in which you use the Scripture to interpret Scripture. In order to do that, you need to take the time to overview the book. You need to get a feel for the flow of thought. You need to understand what the author's purpose is so you can know what he is communicating to you, and just as importantly, what he is not saying. We need to be able to put any portion or verse back into its context so you can truly understand it. There is only one interpretation for any Scripture. It must be interpreted according to the author's (who was inspired by God) intent and meaning. To interpret it any other way is to challenge the authority of Scripture.

You don't need a degree to understand God's Word. Each believe has been given the Holy Spirit who is our teacher and guide. He leads us to truth. God has given His Word to all of us, not just the scholarly. It is our guidebook to life so it has to be easy to understand. Our problems come when we try to rationalize and justify an ungodly life with Scripture. Then we begin to use convoluted reasoning, other interpretations, and looking to men's finite mind to explain God's infinite wisdom.

It is going to take time, but it will be so worth the effort. Join us as we begin to dig into the book of James.

1. Make sure you start every day of study with prayer. Allow God, through His Spirit, to work on your heart and mind. Clear out all that you heard, all you have been taught, all you think, and all that you want Scripture to say, and allow it to speak for itself. Pray that God will give you a blank slate, and that He will begin to fill it with His Word alone.
2. Now you begin with observation, observation, observation. When you are done, you will observe some more. There are three steps to inductive study: observation, interpretation, application. I know the propensity of man's heart is to skip right to the interpretation and application. What does it mean and how does that apply to me? That is why Christian bookstores sell hundreds of books telling us how to live the Christian life. The problem is that someone else spent precious hours in the Bible observing the Word of God and then tell you what they think you should believe and how you should act. If you skip the many hours of observing God's Word for yourself, you will not have your feet established solidly on the rock of Jesus Christ, someone else will.
3. You have been given Observation Worksheets of the book of James. This is the book of James double-spaced, with wide margins which will become your worksheets for this course. Take those pages, have a seat, and read the book of James. What is your overall impression of the book?

4. Read through the book of James again. As you read, you are going to mark every reference of the author. I use blue and underline every reference to the author. You can mark them however you would like. There is no right or wrong way to mark as long as you are consistent. Mark his name, a synonym referring to him, or a pronoun like I, me, my, etc. Don't worry about marking the plural forms of "we" or "us."
5. Look at each marking of the author, and on a separate piece of paper, list (recording chapter and verse) what you learn about the author by asking the 5 W's and H questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how). Just look for the obvious things that you observe.
6. Now read James one more time. This time you are going to look for the recipients of this letter and mark them. I underline mine in green. Mark any references of their name or synonyms and pronouns referring to them. This time you are going to look for pronouns like "you" or "your".
7. Add what you learn from each marking of the recipients to your paper with the author's information. Every time you mark a key word (author and recipient are always key in a letter), it is important that you make a list (including the reference) of what you learn. These lists will help you determine the purpose of the letter. Don't shortcut this step. It is a very important part of the observation process.
8. Read through James again. As you do, look for any mention of historical references. Does it mention a king or ruler? Does it mention a time of persecutions or sufferings and if so who is suffering and why? Does it mention feasts or festivals?
9. Read James one last time. This time look for and mark any geographic locations. I mark mine with a green compass. Also, as you read through the book, take notice of any words that are repeated throughout the book. List any repeated words below.
10. Committing Scripture to memory is an important step to transforming your mind. Why don't you begin memorizing James 1:2-8. Print it on a 3x5 card and carry it with you. Three to five times a day, take it out and read over it two or three times. You will have it memorized in no time.

DAY THREE

Remember to start your time in prayer and then read through James again. You should be getting comfortable with the book by now. The consistent reading will familiarize you with the content and the context of this letter. This is adding to the information you are collecting during this observation process.

You have now read through the book of James five or six times. As you have read, have you noted any words or phrases that have been repeated. These would be key words. As I said before, the author and the recipient in a letter are always key words. Any mention of the Godhead - God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit - are also key. Here are some guidelines to help you understand how to look for, mark, and utilize key words.

Studying inductively is like pulling back layers on an onion. You pull off one layer and it exposes the next. So far you have read through the book of James multiple times. You are beginning to acquire a sense of the book and certain topics may have already started to reveal themselves to you. To continue the overview process, we want to focus in on key words. You have already done some of that on day one and two. You marked and made lists of the author and recipients which are, in a letter, key words.

Introduction to Key Words

You are going to be looking for key words today. Let me explain what a key word is. A key unlocks a door. A key word unlocks the meaning of the book you are reading. So the question becomes, how do I find a key word? You have probably found some by now, and you are not even aware of them. A key word is an important word that is repeated throughout the book. If that word would be removed, you would lose a big part of the meaning and purpose of the book.

When you find key words, you are going to mark them on your observation worksheets. You want to use different colors and different symbols. There is no right way or wrong way to do this. I am not an artist so I tend to go with simple symbols and shapes like arrows, stars, triangles, squares, underlines, etc. There is a list of possible markings to help you get started on our website at <https://www.walkinlight.net/inductive-bible-study>, and you will find some handouts entitled **Marking Key Words** and **More Markings** which give sample pages of possible symbols. The important thing is that you use the same symbol and color for a particular word throughout your study. When you do, these key words will pop off the page at you.

When you read through the book looking at and marking one or two key words, you will find even more that strike you. When you do, read through again and mark those. One warning though. It is a key word to the book when it is mentioned all the way through the book. You may find a word that is repeated in one particular chapter and not the entire book. That word may be a key to that chapter but not to the book itself. We will

mark those at a later time. If you mark it now and then realize later that it was only key to that chapter, it's okay. Just don't list that particular word on your list of key words for the book.

Any mention of the Godhead (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit) is always key; however, depending on how many times they are mentioned and how much time you have to put into your study, it may be a bit overwhelming to mark them at this time. If you choose not to mark them now, you will mark them, and make lists about them when we go to the chapter studies later on.

With that background, I believe you are ready for your assignment for today.

1. Start with the list of words you made yesterday. Determine the symbols that you will use to mark these words. Write these words and their corresponding symbol on an index card that you can use as a bookmark.
2. Read through the book again and mark these key words. If, as you are marking, you see other words that are repeated, jot them down here and then read the book again and mark those.
3. Record your key words on the "At a Glance Chart" on page 9.
4. When you mark key words, it is important to make a list of what we learn about those words, just like we did for the author and recipient. On another piece of paper, record the key word and then list what you learn about that word remembering to indicate chapter and verse where you found that information. Do that for all the key words that you marked throughout James. If you run out of time, you can finish this tomorrow.

Some of you may be able to mark three or more words at a time. Some of you may only be able to mark one word at a time. Let me encourage you. If you are one that can only mark one at a time, it will take you longer to complete this assignment than other students, but think of the blessings you will have because you have read and struggled over this book many more times. You will be blessed by your effort.

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

1. Remember to get into the habit of starting each day with prayer.
2. If you have not completed the assignment for key words, please complete that before you move on.
3. Read through the book of James. As you do, watch for any place the author may say, I am writing this to you because . . . If the author doesn't come right out and say that, then it is up to you to determine the purpose of the book you are studying. The way you do that is by observing the key words and the main topics that are discussed. That will be your mission for the next two days - to determine why James wrote this letter.
4. Let's use the "At a Glance Chart" on page 9 to help us with this task. Start by filling in the information you have already gleaned over the last three days. You know the author and the recipients, so fill those in. Note any historical references, and record the key words you have found. You can always add to the chart later as you continue to study, and you may want to change things here and there so I suggest that you do all your preliminary work in pencil.
5. Next, you are going to discover general subjects or themes covered in James. The subjects the author mentions center around those key words you found. One more layer of that onion is now exposed. Isn't this great? Read through James looking for these themes. Remember that right now you are just looking for things that are obvious.
 - a. Chapter 1 - main topics
 - b. Chapter 2 - main topics
 - c. Chapter 3 - main topics

d. Chapter 4 - main topics

e. Chapter 5 - main topics

6. Record these general topics on the chart on the “At a Glance Chart” on page 9 in the left-hand column entitled “Themes”. You are going to do this for each chapter.
7. Looking over what you recorded for step two, do the topics in each chapter tie together into one major theme that runs through that chapter? This would become a chapter title for each chapter. These can be recorded on your Observation Worksheets as well as the “At a Glance Chart.” I suggest that you record these in pencil because as you study more, observe more, you may discover you want to change your mind.
 - a. Chapter 1 - Title
 - b. Chapter 2 - Title
 - c. Chapter 3 - Title
 - d. Chapter 4 - Title
 - e. Chapter 5 - Title
8. You now know the important key words. You know the general topics covered in each chapter. You may have even found a major theme that runs through each chapter. Armed with all this information, read through James one more time and look for the author’s purpose in writing the book. In some books like Luke, John, I John, and Jude, the author plainly states the purpose of his writing. Look at Luke 1:1-4, John 20:30-31, I John 5:13, and Jude 3. Other books, the author doesn’t come right out and say it. You have to acquire that information from the key words and topics the author covers. When you can see the general theme running

through the entire book, you have caught a glimpse of his purpose. This is why he is writing to you! This is what he wants you to see! If you can find his purpose, record that on your worksheets on page 9.

9. If you are beginning to understand the purpose, and you know the main topics discussed, can you pull all this together to give a title to the book of Colossians? Give it a try and see what you can come up with.
10. Are there any questions that this book has raised in your mind? You can record these in the space below. We are not going to answer them right now, but if you have those questions written out, then as you study and wade deeper into this book, you may begin discovering the answers to your questions.

You have spent time this week laying an important foundation on which to build in the weeks to come. This time and dedication to studying the book of Colossians will help you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called.

James - At a Glance Chart

Book Title: _____

Themes and Titles Chart		
Author:	Themes	Titles
Recipient:	Chapter 1	
Historical References (date):	2	
Purpose:	3	
Key Words:	4	
	5	

Last week you had the opportunity to observe the book of James. What you attempted to do was get the big picture of the letter. You saw the key points (through the key words) the author was making. If you are someone who likes to do puzzles, you have found the corners and connected all the sides. You have completed the framework and all that James desires to communicate fits within that framework.

Now you begin to zoom in. This week you will look at the first chapter of James and see how that fits snugly into the framework. You are going to approach every chapter by completing a chapter study - overviewing the chapter. After that you can begin the process of investigating verse by verse and sometimes word by word as you dig into the depths of the book.

Be patient as we take this step by step. Inductive Bible study has three parts: observation, interpretation, application. If you are faithful to put the time into a thorough observation, then you will be able to come to a correct interpretation, and all along the way you will see the wonderful applications which can be applied to your life.

DAY ONE TO DAY THREE

Let's begin a chapter study on James chapter 1.

Follow these steps one by one. If you look down the whole list, it may become a little overwhelming. Just read step one and complete that step. When that is finished, go on to step two, and so on. You will soon be an expert! Are you ready to begin? Remember that you have three days to complete these steps, so take your time to think about what is being said and allowing God to work in your mind and your heart along the way.

1. Begin your time with prayer. Ask God to open your eyes of understanding and show you His truths and how to apply them to your life.
2. Just to refresh yourself on this letter, record who is writing and to whom he is writing. (Look back at what you recorded last week if necessary.)

3. Read through James 1 and make sure that you didn't miss any key words from your marking last week. If you didn't make lists of your key words last week, please do that now. Also look to see if there is a word repeated in this chapter only. If so you can mark it and write what you learn about it in the margins.
4. Read through James 1 again, this time marking the key words of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (if you didn't mark them last week). I mark God in a purple triangle, Jesus with a red cross, and the Holy Spirit with a purple dove. You can mark them anyway you wish. When you complete marking the Godhead in chapter 1, record what you learn about each Person of the Godhead on the pages of key words that you started last week.
5. Before moving on, what are the major subjects that are dealt with in chapter 1?
6. Read through James 1 once again. As you do look for the following (but be aware that you may not find one or any of these, but at least you looked).
 - a. Look for and mark geographical locations. I use a green compass over the place.
 - b. Look for and mark expressions of time. I use a blue clock. These could be mentions of feasts, day or evening, or words like when, then, after this, until, now, soon, etc.
 - c. Are there certain people other than the author and recipient that are mentioned in the chapter? If so, mark that person in a unique way.
7. Reading the chapter again, look for these.
 - a. Look for and mark instructions. I underline mine in orange. Look for specific "do this" commands. Then make a list of instructions on a separate paper.
 - b. Look for and mark warnings. I put my warnings in a black box. Make a list of the warnings you have marked. I put them on the opposite side of the paper as my instructions.

8. Read James 1 and look for contrasts, comparisons, and terms of conclusion. These are a little more difficult to find, but they are vital to the flow of the chapter. Give it some thought and read slowly and carefully looking for and marking the following.
 - a. **contrasts** - These show the differences between two words or concepts - opposites. I mark mine with a yellow lightening bolt through the word, then I put that lightning bolt on the side of the observation worksheet next to the verse and put the two words that are being contrasted on either side. Look for words like - but, however, yet, nevertheless, on the other hand.
 - b. **comparisons** - These show the similarities between two or more words or concepts. I mark mine with brown lines going in both directions over the word and then I draw a line to the two words that are being compared. Look for words like - like, as, such as, also, etc.
 - c. **terms of conclusion** - These are words like - wherefore, therefore, for, for this reason, finally, etc. The author has stated certain facts and then states that this is how you should respond, this is what you should do. I put the word in a red box and draw lines that tie the fact with the response.
9. In each chapter, there are several paragraphs. These paragraphs are distinguished by vertical lines separating two verses. Read through the chapter and summarize the paragraph by giving it a paragraph title. Follow the same procedure as you did for chapter titles last week.
10. Are you happy with the chapter title that you gave James last week? If not, you can change it now.
11. This is such a rich book, that you will want to carry these words with you wherever you go. The only way to do that is to memorize portions. Last week you were given the challenge to memorize James 1:2-8. Why don't you try adding verses 9-11 to that.

DAY FOUR

1. Read through James 1 refreshing your mind of all that you observed over the last three days.
2. Do you have any questions about the meaning of the text in James 1, after completing your chapter overview? If so write them down.
3. Has God shown you anything concerning your life from the overview of chapter 1? Write out a list of things you have learned, or write what you have learned in a form of a poem, a prayer, a song. If you are artistic maybe you want to draw a picture of what this chapter has taught you. Make this very personal for you. Allow God to speak to you as you prayerfully evaluate and meditate on this chapter.

DAY FIVE

This is going to be another day of reflection and meditation on this very rich chapter of James 1. Make sure you continue to start your time in prayer as you seek to allow God to renew your mind through the reading and understanding of His Word.

1. Read James 1 in a spirit of worship. John MacArthur likes to say that worship is understanding His worth-ship. It is looking at and recognizing another's worth. What kind of God do you have? How can He tell you to rejoice in your trials? Does God change? What kind of gifts does He bestow on you? Record what you learn about God as you read through chapter 1 and record why He is worth your worship. Allow God to speak to you as you think about this. Be still and know that He is God!

If you have been doing your homework, you have been working on memorizing James 1:2-11. They are wonderful verses, aren't they? Did you ever stop to think about the benefits of trials in your life. They should be something that we embrace knowing that they will perfect and complete you. Ask God, in faith, for wisdom as you walk through the trials in your life. Did you catch the blessing for enduring those trials in verse 12? You will be approved by God and receive the crown of life. Praise the Lord and bring on the trials! I want to hear well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21)! I want to to be found to be approved by God as a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly being able to handle the Word or truth (II Timothy 2:15)! Don't you?

These precious verses will be the focus of your study this week. If you have these verses hidden in your heart, and you understand what they mean, then you will understand what it means to have a faith that is real, a faith that works!

I pray that you will be blessed by what you are going to learn this week.

DAY ONE

Are you ready to dig in? What treasures await you!

1. Make sure to begin your study with prayer. Seek God's guidance as you study and read His Word. Ask that the eyes of your understanding may be opened and that the Spirit will instruct you and lead you into truth.
2. Have you been working on memorizing James 1:2-11? If you have take time to recite that to the Lord and tell Him that this is what you want for your life. This week, why don't you memorize verse 12 to go along with it. Read through James 1:12 and record the promise to those who persevere under trials.
3. Read through James 1:1-12. Do you have any questions about these verses. If so record them now and see if, as you study this week, those questions are answered for you.

4. James 1:2-12 can be broken up into three different segments: 1:2-4; 1:5-8; 1:9-12. Your job this week will be to see how these sections relate to one another and how they fit into the purpose of James's letter. So let's begin with verses 2-4. We are going to begin by doing some word studies to have a complete understanding of what James is communicating to his readers.

How To Complete Word Studies

If you have a Strong's Concordance or a Complete Word Study New Testament, these will help you with the study. You can also use blueletterbible.org on your computer. Type in book and chapter and when it comes up, next to each verse is a button that says tools. If you click on it, it will break down every verse word by word and it gives you a number (that is the Strong's number and the transliteration (the Greek word written in English letters). Record the number and the transliteration in your workbook. Then if you click on the number it will give you much information about the word including how it is translated, cross references as to where else that word is used in Scripture, and definitions for the word. Record the definitions and any pertinent cross references.

a. various (divers - KJV) - James 1:2

b. trials (temptations - KJV) - James 1:2

c. testing (trying - KJV) - James 1:3

d. endurance (patience - KJV) - James 1:3, 4

e. perfect - James 1:4

f. complete (entire - KJV) - James 1:4

5. Armed with those definitions, let's take some time to think through and answer some questions about what exactly the author is saying. Some of the questions may seem redundant, but be diligent in answering them because each one will make you view these verses from a different perspective.

a. How do trials relate to your faith?

b. What are trials **meant** to produce in your life, or put another way, what should be the end product of a trial in a believer's life? What is its purpose?

DAY TWO

Today you will be working on some cross-references. Part of inductive study is allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. One of the key tenants to Bible study is that the main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things. When God wants you to understand something, He shows you the same information in other places and in other ways. Cross-referencing can then help you confirm a truth. It can keep you from misinterpreting what Scripture is saying because Scripture can never contradict Scripture. It may shed new light on the subject as it reveals different aspects or perceptions giving a depth to your understanding. It can also help illustrate a truth; therefore, cross-referencing is a vital tool to study. The more you read, study, and compare God's Word the more you will discover the clear truth that is presented throughout the Bible

Are you ready? Read James 1:2-4 to remind you what James has said. Now let's take a look at a few other passages that talk about the same concept. As you do this, take the time to do word studies of these passages, and then note how these other passages amplify, illustrate, clarify, or add to what James has said.

1. John 16:33

2. Romans 5:3-5

3. I Corinthians 10:13

4. I Peter 1:6-9

5. I Peter 4:12-14

6. I Peter 5:6-10

c. Job 12:13, 16

d. Isaiah 9:6

4. According to James 1:5-8, how does God respond to your request for wisdom?
How do you need to ask?

5. In James 1:6 you are told that you are to ask with faith and without any doubting. The word “doubting” is #G1252 - diakrino - and it means to be divided (separated) in one’s mind. The word is in present tense which means that it an ongoing, continual, habitual mindset and not a single instance in a time of weakness. Instead we are to ask in faith. Read the following verses and record how they relate to James 1:6.

a. Hebrews 11:1

b. Hebrews 11:6

c. Matthew 7:7-11

d. Mark 11:22-24

6. Faith and belief come from the same root word - one being in verb form and the other used as a noun. The English transliteration is pistis, pisteuo - #G4102. It means a firm persuasion, a conviction based on hearing, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, a personal surrender to Him, and a conduct inspired by such surrender. Without the proof of action or conduct, there is no true faith.
7. According to James 1:5-8, how would describe a double-minded man? Is there any excuse to be double-minded in your relationship with God?

DAY FOUR

1. Let's start out the day by reading James 1:2-12.
2. What do verse 2 and verse 12 have in common? Does it seem to tie these verses together? If so why?
3. Can you see any relationship between verses 9-11 and "trials." This is not a "yes" or "no" answer. Explain.
 - a. Read through verses 9-11 and write out what is being contrasted.

- b. How is the rich man described and what example does James give to illustrate his point?
- c. Does it seem as though James is talking about a saved rich person or a lost one? What causes you to answer the way you did?
- d. Why do you think the brother of humble circumstances is to glory and why does it say that this is a high position? Answer this from the James passage as well as reading I Corinthians 1:26-31.
- e. Were there rich and poor believers in the early church? Read Acts 2:44-45 and Acts 4:32-35 and answer that question.
4. Now let's focus on James 1:12. Start by completing word studies on the following words.
- a. blessed

b. perseveres (endureth - KJV) - present tense - a habitual lifestyle

c. approved (tried - KJV)

5. Using just James 1:12 answer these questions.

a. Who is blessed?

b. What will he receive?

c. When will he receive it?

d. Why will he receive it?

e. How is he described at the end of the verse?

f. What makes a man persevere under trials?

6. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 6:20-25 and write out what you read about the one who is blessed. How does this compare to what you have read in James?

Tomorrow we will take a look at crowns throughout Scripture. What are the crowns mentioned and what will we do with them? Are they important? Stay tuned and we'll find out.

DAY FIVE

1. Today you are going to look at the verses that deal with crowns. As you read these verses, record what crown is being mentioned, who receives it and why, how it is described, what we will do with the crowns we receive, and any other important information you may find. Do word studies on any words that are unfamiliar.

When will you get these rewards?

a. I Corinthians 3:10-15

b. II Corinthians 5:10

What will we do with these crowns?

a. Revelation 3:11

b. Revelation 4:10-11

What types of crowns are rewarded?

a. James 1:12 (Look up the word for "crown.")

b. Revelation 2:10

c. I Corinthians 9:24-27 (Look up the word for disqualified - castaway, KJV.)

d. II Timothy 4:8 (Look up the word for award - give, KJV.)

e. I Peter 5:1-4

f. I Thessalonians 2:13-20

2. Now for a little application. If you were to stand before God's throne today, would you have any crowns to cast at His feet? What crowns would you have and why do you think you would have them?

3. You can spend some time seeing what your commentaries have to say about James 1:1-12. Please don't go any further than that! Write any insights on a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

4. How about adding to your memorization. You should have James 1:2-12 down. Let's add 13-15. What wonderful verses to have in your mind when you are going through temptations. When those trials, temptations, and tests assault you, you should be able to quote these Scriptures and bring strength and resolve to your life when you most need it. That is why God has given us His Word. It is our one and only offensive weapon to use as we go out into the battle every day!

Trials, temptations, and testings. The three “T’s” we don’t like to talk about, but they are a reality of life! We face them everyday. There is nothing new under the sun. James understands what you go through; he went through it too! But he has answers for us. He can tell us how we can take something that seems so negative and turn it into something that can bring joy and victory to our lives. Are you willing to handle these three “T’s” God’s way? Then let’s see what James has to teach us.

DAY ONE

In James 1:2-12, you focused on the trials that are from without. Now, in James 1:13-17, you are going to focus on temptations that come from within. Remember to begin each day in prayer and tell God that you want victory in your life. Ask Him to teach you and direct you through His Word. And then as James teaches us, be doers of the word and not hearers only. Live in light of what you learn.

1. Begin by reading James 1:2-17. Watch the flow of the passage. When you read through these verses, can you see anything mentioned in verses 2-12 that may be considered trials in life? Record them and then examine your life to see if any are problems that you experience in your own life.
2. In verses 13-17, record what you learn about temptations. What are temptations that you deal with in your life. According to James, how can you combat these?
3. Let’s do a couple of word studies so you can better understand these verses. If you need instructions on how to complete a word study, you can go back and look at last weeks lesson on page 18.
 - a. lust - James 1:14

b. carried away (drawn away - KJV) - James 1:14

c. enticed - James 1:14

d. conceived - James 1:15

e. sin - James 1:15

f. accomplished (finished - KJV) - James 1:15

g. death - James 1:15

4. Take those definitions back to the text and read James 1:13-17 one more time. Do you have any greater understanding of this passage at this time when you understand the Biblical definitions of these words?

DAY TWO

1. James warns you not to say that you are tempted by God. Do you, do I, really do that? Do we blame others for our own problems. Scripture is replete with examples of those who do exactly that. That was a consequence of sin. Read Genesis 3. Where did Adam put the blame (there were two people he blamed)? Where did Eve put the blame?
 - a. Read Proverbs 19:3 and record what you learn from this verse?
 - b. Think of instances in your own life where you put the blame on others thereby justifying your own sinful actions. Do you recognize how quickly we all do that?
2. Now let's get personal. Think through these questions and answer them truthfully especially when it comes to examining your own life in light of these questions.
 - a. When people do things wrong, are they usually willing to accept the blame and responsibility for what they have done?
 - b. Are you quick to accept the blame and the responsibility or is your first reaction to blame others?

- c. How do people (you included) tend to excuse their wrong doings? What do they (you) tell themselves to help justify their actions?

3. Let's go back to the trials that were mentioned in James 1:2-12. You are to consider it all joy when you encounter various trials because there is a positive end result. What happens when you don't consider it joy and you don't bear up under the trails?
 - a. What other reactions can someone have when trials come their way? Write down any you can think of.

 - b. When you choose to not obey God's Word and you don't consider it all joy, you don't persevere, you don't become a mature believer, and you refuse to allow God's Spirit to control you, then what is controlling you?

 - c. What does James 1:13-17 tell you about this? What does it say is happening? Be sure to include the progression of what takes place.

4. Read I Corinthians 10:13. How does this compare to James 1? How does this help you to deal with trials, temptations, and testings when they arise?

5. How do you think James 1:16-17 fits into what is being said in verses 13-15?
 - a. In light of what you have just looked at, how are we deceived and who is doing the deceiving?

 - b. Think through verse 17 and look up words if necessary and determine why James uses this example. Give this some thought.

6. What do you think James wanted his readers to understand when he wrote verse 18. Keep it in the context of the verses you have studied. There is a reason why God inspired him to write those words. What do you think that reason is?

7. You can check your commentaries to see what they say about James 1:13-17. Please don't go any further than that. You will study verse 18 a little more tomorrow which is why you are not looking at it right now.

3. Let's slowly and carefully walk through these verses watching closely the path James seems to be following.
 - a. In verse 15, James presents an illustration of conception to birth. Watch what he says. Lust is conceived and it gives birth to sin, and when sin wreaks havoc in our lives, it brings death. It has accomplished its purpose. Remember that Satan is a murderer and his purpose from the beginning was to bring death to mankind - to separate man from the God who loves him and desires him to have life abundantly. In James 1:18, he uses the same concept. There was another conception - "He brought us forth" (begat us - KJV) with the word of truth, so we could be born into His kingdom - first fruits among His creatures. Sin brings forth death, God's Word brings forth life. Sin is conceived through unregenerate man who follows after his own lusts. A believer is conceived by God's will through His Word and follows after the will of God.
 - b. In verse 18, James introduces the discussion about the Word of God. He shows three different aspects of the Word.
 - 1) it is a seed that roots itself in our hearts (the "word implanted" in verse 21)
 - 2) it is a mirror which reveals who we really are (in verse 23-24)
 - 3) it is the perfect law of liberty - bringing freedom from sin (in verse 25)
 - c. In verses 22-25 James contrasts those who are hearers of the Word only and those who become effectual doers of the Word. The rest of his letter will focus on the necessity of being doers.
4. So as you can see, the flow of thought comes through all these verses, so the question then is, how do verses 19-20 fit into all of this? Do they somehow relate to the "Word" and if so how?

James begins by saying "this you know." What do they know? How do they know it? In verse 18 they were reminded of the regenerating power of the Word of God. If they have been regenerated by God's Word then they need to be living that out in their everyday lives. There needs to be a connection between what they know and how they live (hearers versus doers). A new birth leads to a new life that is directed by the very Word that saved them. The phrase "everyone must be" is in the imperative mood which means that it is a command. It is in the present tense which means an ongoing lifestyle. Everyone is to be quick to hear. Hear what? God's Word! Everyone needs to be a hearer but then they need to be doers as well which means they are slow to speak (he will address the power of the tongue), slow to anger, and faithful about putting aside all filthiness and wickedness (21).

5. So how does this apply to us today? As the church, the body of Christ, we are (as a whole) guilty of knowing very little about God's Word, and even less about what it means to be living it out on a daily basis. Do we walk by our lusts or walk by the Word? Are we quick to speak about our "faith" and then live in the world's filth? Do we half-heartedly listen to people and then quickly jump in with our own opinions? Do we sing praises to the Lord and then unleash hell's fury on others with that vile little thing called a tongue? What in your life proves that you are a doer of the Word and not a hearer only? When others look at your life what do they see? Take time to meditate on the questions. Examine your life. Open your heart up before the Lord and allow Him to hold His mirror up so you can examine yourself. Write out your thoughts, answers, and prayer below.

5. Time for a few more word studies.

a. Filthiness - James 1:21

b. All that remains of wickedness (superfluity of naughtiness - KJV) - James 1:21

c. Humility (meekness - KJV) - James 1:21

d. Souls - James 1:21

6. Read verse 21 thoughtfully and prayerfully. What is the Word able to do in your life? What is your responsibility in this? Don't just write out the verse, but explain it thoroughly. Think through this.

DAY FIVE

1. Read James 1:21-27 carefully. How do verses 26-27 tie in with verses 21-25?
2. What does it mean to bridle your tongue?
3. If you don't bridle your tongue, what does that say about your Christianity?

6. You can see what you commentaries have to say about James 1:18-27.

Faith without works is dead. Does James teach a works based salvation or would he agree that salvation is based on faith alone?

How does true faith behave? What does it look like and act like especially when applied to our relationship with others?

James chapter two is a powerful chapter that will challenge the way you think, speak, and act!

DAY ONE THROUGH DAY THREE

You are going to begin by completing a thorough chapter study on chapter two. If you need a reminder of the steps, you can look back at lesson two on pages 11-13.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Read through James 2 with fresh eyes and allow the words to wash over you. Hear what he is trying to communicate.
2. As you begin James 2, you will notice that he brings up the topic of the rich and poor once again. As a reminder of what he has said previously, read James 1:9-11.
3. Compare James 1:9-11 with James 2:1-7. Does James address two different topics concerning the rich and poor? If so, note what he addressed in the first chapter and then what he seems to be addressing in the second.

4. Does James have something against the rich? Is there anything wrong with being rich? For the next two days you are going to look through Scripture and see what is taught about riches. Read each passage and record what you learn about riches, wealth, and attitudes. Ask yourself the 5 "W"s and an "H" questions as you read. When you are done, make an outline of what you have learned from this study. Give this plenty of prayer, time, and thought because understanding God's perspective of your finances is vital to the way you live and the way you view life and the people around you. Are those people a means to you getting ahead or are they an opportunity to share God's love? Study well.

a. Deuteronomy 6:10-12

b. Job 31:24-28

c. Psalm 52:1-7 (read verse 7 first and then go back and read 1-7)

d. Proverbs 11:4, 28

e. Proverbs 18:11, 23

f. Proverbs 23:4-5

g. Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

h. Jeremiah 17:11

i. Matthew 19:24

j. Mark 4:18-19

k. Mark 10:17-27

l. Luke 12:15-21

m. Luke 16:13-14

n. I Timothy 6:3-19

Outline About Wealth

4. Now it's time to do a little soul searching. Where do you invest your money? Is your idea of investments truly an investment or a means of catering to your wants? Are you sure that this is where God wants you to invest His money? Remember that it is His and not yours! Are you investing it in the furtherance of His kingdom?

5. What about your lifestyle? How moderate is it? Are there places where you indulge self yet hold back from helping those in true need? Where do you invest your time on things eternal or things of today that have no lasting value? Do you look at others and use their actions as an excuse for your own?

DAY TWO AND DAY THREE

1. After beginning your time in prayer, read James 2:1-13. In verse 8, what do you think that the "royal law" means and what does it have to do with the attitude of showing partiality?

e. Jude 4

4. In James 2:12 speaks of being judges by the law of liberty. He tells his readers to speak and act accordingly as someone who will be judged by that law. James is the only writer in the Bible that uses this reference. Let's take a look at a couple of other passages that may help us understand what this means to us today.

- a. John 8:31-32

- b. John 12:47-48 (notice what judges the man and how that may apply to James)

- c. James 1:25

5. Is God partial? Does He show partiality toward the rich? The poor? Those with position and power? The downtrodden and destitute?

- a. Leviticus 19:15

- b. Deuteronomy 1:17

- c. Deuteronomy 16:18-20

d. Psalm 82:1-4

e. Jeremiah 7:4-7

f. Ezekiel 22:29-31

g. Zechariah 7:8-14

h. Acts 10:34

i. Romans 2:11

j. Ephesians 6:9

k. Colossians 3:23-25

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

Now we are going to turn our attention to the heart of this chapter. We are going to delve into James 2:14-26. You have two days to pour over these precious verses. Don't rush this assignment and spend plenty of time in prayer examining your life! They are vitally important to each of our lives. For some it will encourage you and prove that you are in the faith. For others, it may reveal that what you have been clinging to is merely worthless religion. What about you? Do you have a faith that's real? If so what is the proof? If you can't point to the proof, you may need to go back and ask that question again. A true faith has proof, works, and Scripture tells you exactly what that is going to look like in your day to day life. Paul tells you that you are to "test yourselves to see if you are in the faith," II Corinthians 13:5. James warned about worthless religion back in James 1:25-27, and it will be a theme throughout his letter.

1. Read James 2:14-26 and write down the main focus of these verses.

2. He opens this portion of the letter with two questions in verse 14. What are they?

3. When he asks the question, "Can that faith save him?" What kind of faith is he referring to?

4. As you read 2:14-26, is there a key repeated phrase throughout the verses?

5. James presents an example in verses 15-16. How does this example relate to the rest of the passage?

6. According to James, faith that has no works is what?
 - a. How many times does he use that expression in verses 14-26?
 - b. What do you think he means by that expression?

7. How many times does James use the words “show” and “see” in this passage? Do you think that is significant? Why or why not?

James makes the bold statement that “Faith without works is dead.” Do other portions of Scripture support that claim? Let’s take a look at some of those passages. God may reveal some things about yourself that you are not going to like. If you are God’s child, don’t run from truth. His truth is what cleanses us and transforms our mind so we can become more like Him. The weak and the foolish run from the chastisement of our loving heavenly Father.

8. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and answer these questions.
 - a. How is a man saved?
 - b. Do works have any part of bringing a person to salvation?
9. Read Romans 6:4. How does newness of life relate to a faith without works?
10. Read II Corinthians 5:17. Do you see any parallels to the verses we have already looked at and what James has said in his letter?
11. Read Galatians 5:19-21. What happens to those who practice these things? The verb practice is in the present tense which means that you keep on doing it, it is a continuous or habitual lifestyle.

Faith without works is dead. It is as simple as that. End of discussion! I will show you my faith by my works. A real faith, a true faith, will be lived out each and everyday of your life. When someone lives out their faith, it will be noticed by the world. When those around you are asked, what would they say about your life? Would they say you live what you say you believe or would you be considered by them to be a hypocrite. The word "hypocrite" comes from a Greek word meaning an actor, someone who just plays a part or a role. Let that soak in as we continue our study of faith and works.

DAY ONE

There is another passage in Scripture that has to do with a believer living out what they say they believe. Today, you are going to spend time in the book of Matthew looking at Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount.

1. Read Matthew 5-7 at least two times. Let the words of Jesus wash over you as you sit at His feet, and allow Him to teach you as He taught the people 2,000 years ago. Write down your impressions of this sermon given by the greatest Teacher of all times. Don't write down all that He teaches (there isn't enough room), just your impressions, what may have struck you, questions that are brought to mind.

2. I wonder whether James was there that day to hear what Jesus said? Do you see common ideas or topics between the Sermon on the Mount and James? If so what are they?

3. Everything we do in our life needs to be directed by God's hand. He calls us to study his Word, to walk by His light, to walk worthy of Him, seeking Him first in all that we say and do and in the way that we live. He is a jealous God and demands our worship and obedience. If we put anything before Him, we are idolators! The world will see our fruits, and it will be known whether we are true believers or actors playing a role.

Spend the rest of your time today focusing on Matthew 7:13-29 with an emphasis on verses 20-27. Use what you have learned to do word studies on difficult words or look for cross-references to compare Scripture with Scripture. Most importantly, compare what Jesus says in these verses to what you have learned in James 2:14-26.

I have left you plenty of room to write your notes, questions, and thoughts as you study.

c. Romans 1:5; 16:25-26

d. Titus 2:14; 3:8

e. II Corinthians 13:5

4. Now let's return to James 2:19-26.

- a. James says that Abraham was justified by his works. Does he mean that Abraham was saved at that point in time because of his works? Do a word study on the word "justified" in an expository dictionary (or blueletterbible.org) and see whether "justified" always refers to the act of salvation. Record what you learn.

- b. In James 2:23, James quotes Genesis 15:6 just as Paul did in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 3:6. His focus was that Scripture was fulfilled when Abraham offered up Isaac. He was not saying that righteousness was not reckoned to Abraham when he believed, but that there was a fulfillment of this reckoning was seen when Abraham's faith was made perfect (complete) as a result of offering up Isaac.

- c. Read Hebrews 11:17 and answer these questions.
 - 1) How did Abraham offer up Isaac?
 - 2) When did Abraham receive the promises - before Isaac was born or when he offered him up?
 - 3) Was Abraham saved before offering up Isaac?
 - 4) Do you think James knew and understood this?
 - 5) What was happening to Abraham when He was called to offer up Isaac? What was God testing? Who needed the proof?

5. In the midst of the portion of James there is an interesting verse stuck in here that seems out of place. Did you see it? Did you wonder why that was in the works and faith discussion? Let's take a minute to look at James 2:19.
 - a. James is challenging the Jews (his audience) on what they believe. What did every Jew know? They knew what they had been taught as a child. They knew the Shema! Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is One! These were the words that were to be on their heart and taught diligently to their children. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 carefully.
 - b. Do you think that James was referencing any of this when you compare this with James 2:14-26? If so, what?

6. James is challenging their own dead beliefs. Do you believe the Shema? Do you believe that God is one? Great. That is not enough! Even the demons believe that, and they shudder, but that doesn't mean they are saved! The demons recognized Jesus (Mark 1:23-24), and they also knew their fate (Matthew 8:28-29). Correct doctrine is not enough! Calling Him God or Lord is not enough! Saying that you believe is not enough! There must be a life of works that show the reality of your faith! Does your life show the reality of what you profess?

7. If someone asks you, "How can I know if I am saved?" what would your response be? Write it out, it will be good practice for you!

DAY FOUR

1. Today your assignment will be to see what your commentaries have to say about James 2:14-26. Record your insights below.

2. Continue to work on memorizing James.
3. Spend time in prayer and ask the Lord to help you apply all that you are learning in these lessons.

DAY FIVE

Today is going to be a day of review and reflection. Please don't skip this precious time with the Lord.

1. Read over James 1 and 2 several times. If there is anything in word usage or interpretation that you question, go back to your lessons and find your answers. If you still have questions write them below.
2. Are you seeing the flow of the book in these two chapters and how he connects the topics?
3. If you haven't had time to check what your commentary had to say about James 2, please do so now. It is just one more way to review and maybe catch more insight to add to what you already know. (There is space on the pages in the lessons to write your notes.)
4. Read the book of James and catch a glimpse of what still lies ahead in this study.
5. Review the parts of James you are memorizing.

“The tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.” James 3:6

Those are strong words! He goes on to tell us that it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. Surely he is making more of this than he should. I certainly don't have that much trouble with my tongue! Think again. As you approach this chapter, let God speak to your heart and renew your mind.

DAY ONE THROUGH DAY TWO

Your assignment for the next two days will be to complete a thorough observation of James chapter 3. Don't miss a thing. It may be a short chapter, but it is a powerful lesson about taming the tongue. Study well.

If you need a reminder of the steps for a chapter study, go back to lesson two for instructions.

DAY THREE

Now that you have thoroughly observed chapter 3, today's assignment is to outline the chapter. Don't panic! Don't opt to skip this assignment thinking that it is too hard and not all that important. It is vitally important to watch the flow of thought through this chapter. James has much to teach you about communication, and communication is crucial in your everyday life. It is how we interact with the world and the people in it.

Outlining is simply looking for the main topics and then listing what the author tells you about that topic and illustrations of his point.

Work through this chapter carefully and prayerfully. There should be ample room for you to do your work on the next page.

DAY FOUR

James starts off chapter three by saying that not many of you ought to be teachers knowing that you are under stricter judgment.

Now before you take a deep sigh of relief and say, “Well, that doesn’t apply to me, because I am not a teacher,” think again. We need to understand what Scripture tells us about each believer, so let’s dig into the truth!

1. Let’s begin with a look at those who are called to be teachers. Biblically, teaching is a spiritual gift given to those who will bring forth the Word of God to others. The following verses will give insight to those who have been given this spiritual gift. Record what you learn from each of these passages. By the way, if you have never taken the course on Spiritual Gifts, you should. You can find the study we did on our website in the class archives here <https://www.walkinlight.net/class-archives>.

a. Romans 12:6-7

b. I Corinthians 12:27-29

c. Ephesians 4:11-16

2. Now, let’s say that you don’t have the gift of teaching, does that exempt you from teaching? Let me ask you these questions. If you haven’t been given the gift of giving, does that mean you are not called to give? If you haven’t been given the gift of mercy, does that mean you don’t have to show mercy? If you haven’t been given the gift of faith, does that mean you don’t have to have faith? So let’s examine the responsibility of every believer in respect to teaching.

a. Galatians 6:1

b. II Timothy 2:24

c. Hebrews 5:12

d. James 5:19-20

e. I Peter 4:11

3. Whether you have been given the gift of teaching or not, you are charged with the command to share the Word of God and to counsel or instruct others in certain situations. At such times, you are assuming the role of teacher, and therefore, are accountable for what you teach. You will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of what you have done, whether good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10). You need to understand the importance of accountability! So as a pastor, a teacher, or a lay person, you need to understand your responsibility to handle God's Word in each and every situation. Read each passage and record what you learn from each of them. The first one comes with a list of questions to answer.

a. I Corinthians 3:10-17

- 1) What is the foundation and is there any other?

- 2) Who builds on this foundation and how do you build?
- 3) List the building materials described in this passage and put them in two categories? What makes these categories different?
- 4) When is the one that builds held accountable and how is his work judged?
- 5) What is the result of that judgment?
- 6) When a man is building on whose temple is he working? How serious is that work. Be detailed in your answer to that question.

b. I Corinthians 4:1-5

c. Ezekiel 22:26-28

d. Ezekiel 34:1-6

e. I Timothy 1:3-7

4. Take time to summarize all that you have learned in today's study. After you have summarized this material, evaluate how this can and will be applied to your life. Knowledge gained for knowledge's sake puffs a man up. Application causes us to fall on our knees before God and confess how short we fall from attaining His standard of perfection. II Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is profitable for doctrine (teaching, truth), reproof (showing us where we are wrong), correction (instruction on how to correct what is wrong), and instruction in righteousness (showing us the principles, precepts, commands, and truths that we are to live by). What has God shown you?

DAY FIVE

Today we are going to look at James 3:2. That's right. You're going to devote a day's study to one verse. It is not only important to know what James is saying, but it is also important to know what he is NOT saying! Let's dig in.

James says we all stumble in many ways. He includes himself in this statement. We can all agree that there are many times we do things we shouldn't do and then wonder how we could be so stupid.

1. There are many who say that it is not possible to be perfect, so it is okay to stumble. Do you think James is excusing sin in his life and in the lives of others or is he simply stating a fact? Give your reasoning for your answer using the words of James for your defense.

2. "We all stumble (offend) in many ways." Let's look at this phrase piece by piece.
 - a. What exactly is meant by "we all"?

 - b. Look up stumble (offend - KJV) in your word study tools. What does it mean?

 - c. Stumble is in the present tense. What does that mean?

 - d. Go back and read verse 2 in its entirety. Note what the stumbling relates to.

3. Look at the following verses and see how they relate to James 3:2.
 - a. Ecclesiastes 7:20

b. I Kings 8:46

c. I Corinthians 4:4

d. I John 1:8

4. Does the fact that we stumble or sin mean that we can casually excuse our sin (missing the mark or falling short of the target)? Answer this from James 3:2 and explain in detail.

5. Using word study tools, look at the word for “perfect” in James 3:2. Does the word mean to be completely perfect, never sinning?

6. This may seem repetitious, but repetition is the key to learning. So, according to James 3:2,
 - a. is it possible to be a perfect man?

 - b. what makes a man perfect according to this verse?

 - c. Read James 3:3-8 and see how it relates to James 3:2

7. Take time to reflect on all that you have learned this week as you have worked through James 3:1-2.

Do you have problems with your tongue? Do you speak to tear down instead of what is good for edification?

Technically, it is not a tongue problem. Did you catch that? We don't have a problem with the tongue. We have problem with our heart! According to Jesus, the mouth speaks what is in the heart (Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45). Solomon says, "*The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not so.*" - Proverbs 15:7

What fills our minds will find its way out of our mouths. What fills your mind? Knowledge and wisdom from God or the wisdom and ways of the world? Worldly thoughts and worldly wisdom are Satan's domain. These are what drive jealousy, bitterness, anger, and destruction. They are poison to our souls. This is why James tells us that the tongue is set on fire by hell. He encourages you and I to seek wisdom from God. This wisdom is life giving and edifying, and when we speak, this is what will speak into the lives of others. Our tongue will be controlled, not by our own strength, but through the work of the Spirit who transforms our minds (hearts) through the washing with the Word, and causes us to speak God's overflowing love to the world.

DAY ONE

Last week, you focused on James 3:1-2. You briefly read verses 3-8 to see how they related to verse 2. Let's start our week by looking at these verses more intently.

1. After you begin your study time in prayer, read James 3 to refresh your mind and put you in context.
2. Go back and read verses 3-8. In these verses James gives some practical examples to help you understand the power behind something so small and seemingly insignificant. Take time to think through each of these examples by answering the following questions.
 - a. Explain the example in James 3:3. Draw a picture to illustrate what is happening. (Don't worry if it isn't a great picture, you will see something important if you do this.)

3. Continuing his discussion on the tongue, James gives us another illustration. Read James 3:9-12 and in the space below, draw a picture of what he is saying. It can be one picture or several. By thinking this through and taking the time to illustrate this, you are processing this information and the picture you come up with will be imprinted on your mind for years to come. I can still close my eyes and see the picture I drew when I studied this book the first time about 15 years ago. I will give you plenty of room for your drawings below.

DAY TWO

1. You have seen the trouble the tongue can cause. In the introduction to this lesson, I mentioned that this is not a tongue problem, but a problem that comes from the heart. Read the following verses and notice how the tongue and the heart are connected. Record what you learn.

- a. Matthew 12:33-37

- b. Matthew 15:18-20

2. What do you have to control, in order to control your tongue?
3. Fortunately, James doesn't leave you wondering how you are to accomplish this taming of the tongue and controlling the heart (mind). In James 3:13-18 he shows you the solution. Read through these verses carefully and briefly record the main points that James makes. You will come back and look at each point in depth.
4. When you come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, you enter into a New Covenant. Before you go any further, it would be good for you to understand what happens in your heart (mind) when you enter this covenant. Read these verses and record what God does for each true believer.

- a. Ezekiel 36:26-27

b. Jeremiah 31:33

c. Jeremiah 32:39-40

d. John 7:37-39

5. Summarize what happens to your heart when you are saved (justified) by Jesus Christ and the Spirit comes in and sets up house. Prayerfully, carefully, and thoroughly work through this because without understanding this, you can't move on in your Christian walk!

c. Gentle

d. Reasonable (easy to be intreated - KJV)

e. Full of mercy and good fruits (look at the words full, mercy, and good)

f. Unwavering (without partiality - KJV)

g. Without hypocrisy

5. How does verse 18 relate to what James has just said?

6. What have you learned this week about taming the tongue and living out your faith on a daily basis?

7. Check what the commentaries say about James 3.

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

Your assignment for the next two days will be to complete your Observation Worksheets by working through a chapter study on James 4. The more times you can read through this chapter during your work, the better understanding you will have.

Why are we here? What is our purpose? Were we put on this earth to please ourself or are we to live to please God?

I think we all know how we should answer that question, but how do we truly live? Our lifestyle, our thoughts, the things that are important to us - they are the true indicators of what we view our purpose to be. Our lives don't lie even though our tongues can.

DAY ONE

Let's work on some new memory verses. Work on James 4:1-4 this week. As you work on memorizing these verses, let the words flow over your heart and mind. Are you being a faithful bride or are you an adulterous? What does your life indicate to you and to those around you?

1. Let's start this week by reading James chapters 1-4. Watch how chapter 4 ties in to all that James has taught you through the first three chapters. Record your insights.

2. James begins chapter 4 with a question and then immediately answers the question with another question. What are those two questions?

3. Read James 4:2. What problem does James seem to be addressing with his readers?

4. Read James 4:1-12. Keeping in mind the author's purpose, audience, and his pattern or style of writing, let's reason through some questions. Think carefully and do your best to answer the questions, defending your answers through James's own words.
- a. In this passage, is James addressing believers? Why or why not?

 - b. Are these people literally murdering people?

 - c. Is he speaking about conflicts between individuals or literal wars between nations?

 - d. Why do these people not have what they desire?

 - e. When they ask or pray, why does God not give them what they ask for?

 - f. What is the basic problem between these people?

 - g. Can you trace the problems from its root to its fruit?

DAY TWO

1. Today you are going to spend time doing some word studies and cross references, as you seek to understand these first twelve verses.
2. Look up the following words in your Greek study tools. Be sure to record the number, the transliteration, and its meaning.
 - a. pleasures (lusts - KJV) - James 4:1

1) Look at these verses which use the same word. Read them in their context and record how they may apply. Luke 8:14

2) Titus 3:3

3) II Peter 2:13

b. commit murder (kill - KJV) - James 4:2

c. ask with wrong motives (ask amiss - KJV) - James 4:3

d. spend (consume - KJV) - James 4:3

e. friendship - James 4:4

f. hostility (enmity - KJV) - James 4:4

3. In James 4:4, James talks about hostility toward God. Who brings on this hostility and how? Be thorough in your answer.

4. What do you think it means to be friends with the world? Is it a behavior? An attitude? Both? Let's investigate this a bit.
 - a. Using your study tools, look up the word "world" that is used in James 4:4. It is #G2889 - Kosmos.

- b. Is there anything wrong with enjoying the beauty of the world around us or the people in it? What exactly is James trying to say?
- c. How do a person's lusts relate to being friends with the world?
- d. Ephesians 2:1-2 talks about the "course of this world." The Greek word aion is used for "course" and Kosmos is used for "world". Look up this phrase and see if it gives you any insights to this idea of being "friends with the world."
- e. Read Titus 2:12. "Worldly" is kosmikos and the word "age" is aion. How does this relate to James 4:4?
- f. Read John 15:18-21 and John 16:11. What do you learn about the world (kosmos)?

- g. Now let's look at I John 2:15-17. Record how this pertains to our James passage.
- h. Romans 12:2 uses aion for "world." What does this verse tell us we should do and not do?
5. Summarize what you have learned about being friends with the world. Do your actions show that you are the world's friend?

DAY THREE

As you seek to understand your responsibility to live in this world but not be part of this world, make sure you spend time before the Lord in prayer and ask that He examine your heart and mind and reveal that which needs to be changed in your life.

1. Read through James 4:1-12 and watch for the theme of worldliness. This whole section of Scripture is teaching you how to deal with worldliness in your life. If you don't keep this in mind, you will get lost in this passage. James is communicating something very important to you, you just need to be diligent to hear.
2. God uses a label (and not a very kind label) for those who are God's children and become friends with the world. What is the label? Why do you think He uses that term? Look up the following verses and answer that question.

a. II Corinthians 11:2-3

b. Ephesians 5:23-32

c. Revelation 19:7-8

3. Can a Christian commit spiritual adultery? Look up Ezekiel 6:9-10. How does a Christian's adultery affect God?

4. Keeping in mind the purpose of this passage, and keeping in mind what you have read about the idea of spiritual adultery, how would you explain James 4:5? You are welcome to look at your study tools to help you understand this passage.

5. Let's reason together through this verse, shall we? These verses are a rebuke to worldliness in our lives. So let's discuss what we know.
 - a. At the time of salvation, we were given the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is there to cause us to walk in the ways of God.
 - c. He causes that yearning in us to be obedient and devoted to God.
 - d. The Spirit is jealous for us, calling for our single-minded devotion to God.
 - e. The Spirit sealed our redemption and claims our undivided love for our bridegroom.
 - f. He will not accept any rival for our affection.
 - g. God's Spirit and our spirit commune together in unity, in oneness with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

6. With that in mind, does that shed any different light onto James 4:5?

DAY FOUR

Have you ever felt the pull of the world in your life? Of course you have. We all have! Satan desires to pull us off the path that God has called us to follow. How are we to deal with this problem?

We are called to run to God - cry out to Him. Confess your weakness and seek His strength, comfort, and help. His grace is sufficient for all your needs. You just need to be willing to admit that you are not strong enough for this battle alone.

1. Look at the wonderful promise in James 4:6. "He gives a greater grace!" It is greater than the pull of the world. Greater than the powers of darkness. Greater than the trails and temptations. Greater than the envy of worldliness. Who receives this grace and under what conditions is it received? Answer this question from James 4:6.
2. Now Read James 4:7-10. Can you see how these verses correspond to verse 6?
3. In verses 7-10 there is a list of commands. Remember that these commands deal with the pull of worldliness in our lives. List the commands.

4. Now read James 4:11-12. Did James just change the subject or are these verses somehow related to what he has just finished saying? Answer the following questions.

a. If someone speaks against his brother, what is he doing?

b. What law would he be speaking against? Let's look at a couple of verses.

1) Leviticus 19:15-18

2) Mark 12:31

3) Romans 13:8-10

c. According to James 4:11, you are either a doer of the law or a judge of the law. What does that mean?

5. Read Galatians 5:13-16. Can you see any parallels to James 4:1-12?

6. Let's go back to question 4. Did James change the subject or are verses 11-12 related to 1-10?

7. This isn't the first or last time that James talks about judging. Let's spend the rest of today looking at this topic from James's perspective.

a. You will start by looking at the various forms of the word. Look each up and record the definitions.

1) #G2919 - krino - verb - to judge

2) #G2923 - krites - noun - a judge

3) #2922 - kriterion - a means of judging

b. Note what each verse says about judging.

1) James 2:4 - krites

2) James 2:6 - kriterion

3) James 2:12 - krino

4) James 2:13 - krisis

5) James 4:11 - krino (first 3 uses); krites (the 4th use)

6) James 4:12 - krites, krino

7) James 5:9 - krino, krites

8) another word can be diakrino which translates as “doubt,” “judge,” “contend,” is translated “doubting” (wavering - KJV) and “doubts” (wavereth - KJV) in James 1:6. In James 2:4, it is translated as “made distinctions” (be partial - KJV).

8. What have you learned about judging from this study today?

DAY FIVE

1. Today we are going to look at other Scriptures that have to do with judging. Make sure to read each verse in its context. All of these verses use the Greek word "krino." It is very important for you to understand what to judge, when to judge, or if we are to be judging at all. Record what you learn from each verse. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but it should give you plenty to ponder!

a. John 3:17-18

b. John 12:48

c. Acts 4:19

d. Acts 16:14-15

e. Romans 14:3-13

f. I Corinthians 4:5

g. I Corinthians 5:3

h. I Corinthians 6:2-3

i. I Corinthians 10:15

j. I Corinthians 10:29

k. I Corinthians 11:13

l. I Corinthians 11:31-32

m. Colossians 2:16

n. Hebrews 10:30

o. I Peter 1:17; 2:23

Hedonism is defined as the pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence. If you look around the world today, you see this everywhere. Mankind is out to seek nothing but his own pleasure even when that means trampling on the rights and freedoms of others.

James talks about the toll jealousy and selfish ambition will take. There will be disorder and every evil thing. James understood where man's evil heart will take him.

- Man's heart is deceitful and desperately sick. - Jeremiah 17:9

- Man won't listen or obey, but walks in his own counsel and stubbornness of his evil heart, going backwards and not forward. - Jeremiah 7:24

- He is a fool who says, "There is no God." He is corrupt and has committed abominable deeds. - Psalms 14:1-3; 53:1-3

Last week, we saw the cure for this disease that plagues this world. It is God's unlimited power that reaches out to the spirit of man and changes him from within. As God brings us into the New Covenant, He changes our heart and puts His Spirit within us that causes us to fear God and walk in His ways. This brings us to a new life and makes us a new creature. As such we have died to the pleasures of the world. We can now submit to God and resist the devil. This is the newness of life we now walk in. - Romans 6:4

DAY ONE

1. Begin this new week by reading James 1-4. Carefully think through all that you have learned through each lesson. If necessary, go back and look at your notes when you have any questions about definition or interpretations. Record any questions you may still have at this time.

2. Read James 4:1-12. These are the verses that we studied last week. Take the rest of the time today to see what your commentaries have to say about James 4:1-12. Remember not to go any further than verse 12, but having a good grasp on these verses will give you solid footing for this week's study.

DAY TWO

Before you came to know Christ, truly know Him, who determined what your life should be? Who planned your future? Did you? Your parents? Was it determined by worldly influence and worldly wisdom? Did that change when you came to know Christ?

1. Read James 4:13-17. The phrase "come now, you who say," is a phrase of disapproval such as a parent scolding their child. This is an introduction to something else that is going on in the recipients' lives that needs to be addressed. What problem is he addressing in this passage?
2. Do you think there is a reason that he brings this up now? Can you see any way that this may be related to what he had discussed in 4:1-12?

3. You don't know what your life will be like tomorrow. You don't know what your length of days may be. We presume a lot when we make plans for our futures. Take a look at these verses and note what your life is likened to throughout God's Word. Record your answers.

a. James 4:14

b. James 1:10

c. I Samuel 20:3

d. Job 7:7

e. Psalm 102:11

f. Psalm 103:15-16

4. Who determines the your length of days?

a. Job 12:9-10

b. Job 14:5

c. Job 33:4

d. Job 34:14-15

e. Psalm 22:29

f. Psalm 31:15

g. Psalm 139:16

h. Revelation 1:18

5. Understanding that your life is limited, and that God is in control of your days, what should be your attitude toward life be?

a. Psalm 31:14-15

b. Psalm 39:4-5

c. Proverbs 27:1

6. Now read through James 4:13-17 one more time and write out what James teaches you about your life.

DAY THREE

1. Today you are going to read through Luke 12:13-53 twice.
2. Read through Luke 12:13-53 once again, this time recording the main topic that Luke covers. As you do this, watch for connections to James (but don't record them at this time. That will be the next step.)
3. Note any parallels you see between the teachings in Luke 12:13-53 and James. Record them, making sure to note chapter and verse in James.
4. Let's look at a little application. We tend to get so wrapped up in our plans for the future. We even become worried and anxious about it, like we have control over it! What does James and Luke teach us in respect to our future, our goals, and our plans?

5. Read what your commentaries have to say about James 4:13-17. Record any insights or applications you may glean.

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

It is now time to move on to James 5. Take the next two days to complete a thorough observation or chapter study. This is the last chapter, so don't slack off, instead strive to finish strong. Next week will be our last week together and we will dig into the meat of the chapter together.

According to the Oxford Diction the definition for hypocrisy is, “the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one’s own behavior does not conform.” We saw it used in Scripture as someone who was an actor or pretender. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites and white washed tombs. On the outside they played the role of the religious elite, yet with their lives they showed that their hearts were evil and they were dead inside.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the members of the body of Christ would take off their masks and stop acting with each other - putting on that smiling face when we all get together. Why is it so hard to bare our souls to one another? Why can’t we be honest and forthcoming with the hardships and mistakes in our lives? Why can’t we openly confess our sins to one another and seek forgiveness and accountability?

Honesty would invite an openness for intercessory prayer for one another. Who doesn’t want that to happen? Satan of course! So he uses our pride and causes us to put on a mask and hide from one another. James is going to address this issue at the end of his letter.

Let’s see what James wants to teach us on this last week of study.

DAY ONE

1. Read James 5 all the way through. Now go back and read James 5:1-6 and see how it may be related to James 5:7-11. Record your thoughts.
2. Look at the statement that James makes in verse 3. He says, “It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!” Were they in the last days when James penned those words? If they were in the last days, what are we in now? Let’s take a look at several Scriptures and see what and when the last days are. Record your thoughts making sure you ask the 5 W’s and H questions. Also, make sure to read each passage in context.

- d. Job 1, 2, and 42 (look for the beginning and the end of Job's life)
4. In James 5:12, James broaches the subject of oaths. He also revisits the topic of the tongue and being careful as to what you say. Why is he bringing this up again? Could it be linked to his mention of Job? Read and record what you learn about Job from Job 6:10, the end of Job 2:10 and Job 31:1-12 (An oath is a promise or covenant. Note how serious Job was about the covenant he had made.)
5. It is hard to live in this day and age with integrity and steadfastness. It is difficult to follow after the things of God when you watch those who are evil prosper. As Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun." The Psalmist understood the frustration of watching the rich get away with their evil schemes and seemingly never judged. What profit is there then to be a child of God? Read Psalm 73 and record how this chapter addresses these concerns.
6. How does Psalm 73 relate to James 5:1-11?

DAY THREE

1. Today you are going to turn your attention to James 5:13-20. Prayerfully read through these verses and allow God to teach you through His Word.
2. How many times did James use the word “prayer” or one of its synonyms or pronouns through these verses?
3. From these verses under what conditions or at what times are we to pray?
4. Using your study tools, look up the Greek word for “pray” and “prayer” in James 5:13-20. Record the words that are used, the transliterations, and the definitions.
5. How does singing praises fit with the idea of prayer? If you need help, read Philippians 4:4-7 and Matthew 6:9-15. Just a note when reading the Matthew passage. If you read the King James Version, it is different than the NASB, so for clarity’s sake I am going to write out what verse 13 says in the KJV. “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: [For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.]” There is a notation that says that the phrase in the brackets is not found in early manuscripts. If it was in the original writings, it will help you to answer the question that was asked.

6. James 5:13 tells you that if you are suffering, you must pray.
 - a. Look up the word suffering (afflicted, KJV) in your word study tools.

 - b. Have you ever been in a state of suffering? What did you do? Did you expose that to your brothers and sisters in the Lord or did you put on a mask and pretend that everything was fine?

 - c. As a doer of the Word, what are you supposed to do and why?

7. Why do you think James tells those who are cheerful that they are to sing praises?

8. Carefully read through James 5:14-15 and then answer the following questions.
 - a. Who is the one to initiate the prayer gathering?

 - b. Why is this prayer offered?

 - c. Who does the praying?

 - d. The elders are to anoint him with oil. This is everyday olive oil. Does this oil have any special powers to heal?

- e. What will restore the person, the oil or something else?

 - f. Look up the word “restore” (save - KJV) in your word study books and record its transliteration and definition.

 - g. What part does the oil have in this? If you can’t answer this right now, it is fine but think about it.

 - h. What kind of prayer restores the sick?

 - i. To the best of your ability, explain this kind of prayer.
9. Read through James 5:14-16. Do you think that these verses teach that any time someone is sick, calls for the elders, and is prayed for, that healing is guaranteed? Think through this before answering.

DAY FOUR

1. Today you will move on to James 5:16-18. Start by reading these verses several times. As you will see, this is a continuation of what we were studying yesterday.
2. Let's begin with some word studies that will aid in your understanding of this passage. Record the transliterations and definitions.

a. confess - James 5:16

b. sins (faults - KJV) - James 5:16

c. healed - James 5:16

d. effective (effectual fervent - KJV) - James 5:16

e. righteous - James 5:16

f. can accomplish (availeth - KJV) - James 5:16

g. nature like (like passions - KJV) - James 5:17

h. earnestly - James 5:17

3. In James 5:16 the two verbs “confess” and “pray” are present tense, imperative mood, and in the second person plural. Present tense indicates that this is something we do as a manner of life. Imperative mood makes this a command. The second person plural indicates that this is something that is done as a group rather than the action of a single person. Look up these verses and see how they may relate to James 5:16-17.

a. Matthew 15:21-28

b. Luke 11:5-8

c. Luke 18:1-8

4. Let's look up a couple of cross references that use the same word for healing as was used in James 5:16. As you read these verses, note what kind of healing takes place.

a. Matthew 13:15

b. Luke 6:17-19

c. Luke 22:51

d. Hebrews 12:13

e. I Peter 2:24

5. One more question and you can call it a day. Why do you think James brings up the prayer of Elijah in James 5:17-18? Are you familiar with the life of Elijah? Go back to your word studies and note what you learn about Elijah's prayer. Tomorrow you are going to take a look at this prophet of God.

DAY FIVE

In James 5:17-18, Elijah is described as a person just like you, but he prayed earnestly and the rains were withheld for three and a half years. I don't know about you, but that doesn't sound like an ordinary man! Yet reading these verses, it seems that James is saying that we should be praying like Elijah.

1. Let's see what you can learn about this man by reading about his life.

a. The statement that he was a man with a nature like ours, means he was just an ordinary man. Just how ordinary was he? Record what you learn.

1) I Kings 17:5-7

2) I Kings 19:1-3

3) I Kings 19:4

4) I Kings 19:10, 14

b. I Kings 17:1 is the first mention of Elijah. What do you learn about him here?

c. How could Elijah be bold enough to stand before the evil King Ahab and pronounce a judgement of shutting up the sky? Let's take a look at the background of the times.

1) I Kings 16:29-34 - what was Israel like during Ahab's reign?

2) Joshua 6:26 - note how this relates to the I Kings 16:29-34 passage.

3) Read Deuteronomy 11:13-17; 28:15, 23-24 and record what you learn from these verses.

2. After looking at these passages, where do you think Elijah received the boldness to stand before Ahab and declare that the skies were going to be shut up?

3. We have looked at the power of prayer, but is there anything that can hinder our prayers? What effect does sin have on a person's prayer life?

a. Psalm 66:18

b. Proverbs 28:9

c. Proverbs 28:13

d. Isaiah 59:1-2 - what a powerful verse!

e. John 9:31

f. I John 1:9

g. Considering what you have learned from these verses, what effect does sin have on your prayer life? How can that sin be dealt with according to the last reference you read?

4. James has shown us the importance of meeting together with a group believers. We need each other to stay real and honest with our lives.

a. The writer of Hebrews tells us the same thing. Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

b. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 carefully and see how that relates.

c. What have you learned about physically being part of a group of believers? There is strength and healing in this gathering!

