



WELCOME! Thank you so much for downloading this resource! Here, you will find a little more insight into the book of James, answers to the reflection questions, and some pro tips and tricks on how to lead this study!

The intent of this study is to get students in the Word by opening to a book of the Bible (James in this instance) and reading it for themselves. You will see that each chapter is broken up into **Sections** and explains what each section is about. These **Sections** contain a couple of chapters and a **Deep Dive** into each chapter and the appropriate **Sections**.

You can use this study for one week, two weeks, multiple weeks, or whatever you want! It is best used for discussions with the students. Allow the students to answer the questions on their own before giving them the answers. You also might suggest that they break into small groups, answer them, and bring their answers back to the larger group. Whatever you choose will be fine!

There is also a **Challenge**. This can be used at the end to send students into the upcoming week with a specific goal or mission to accomplish for the week. Then when you meet again, you can discuss how that went and send them out again with a new challenge. (Feel free to make up your own challenge or forgo the challenge completely).

Small Group Session: James Part 1

Who is James?

James, the brother of Jesus (Galatians 1:19) was the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-21). James might have had some difficulty believing in Jesus at the beginning of His ministry (Mark 3:21, John 7:5), but it became clear that later He fully proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah.

What's the point of James?

The Book of James emphasizes practical Christian living and the importance of faith that produces good works. It addresses topics such as trials, wisdom, the power of words, and the need for consistent, godly behavior.

Because of James' emphasis on good works, the book needs to be looked at in the context of the time it was written. James explained that our actions reveal if we have a true relationship with God or not. Since true faith always produces good works that are pleasing to God, we can be joyful that our good works aren't meaningless or trivial.

[This is a tricky subject to navigate. Teens and adults often get this confused or don't really understand how to explain it. For more insight on how we are saved by grace and our good works are purely overflow from our hearts because of that grace, check out these verses:

Ephesians 2:8-10 (emphasis on grace)

Matthew 7:16-20 (Jesus says a good tree bears good fruit)

John 15 (Jesus describes us as being connected to the vine, an image of living faith producing works)]

Outline of James 1-2

Section 1: Introduction: 1:1-18

1. Greeting (1:1)
2. Consider Troubles Pure Joy (1:2-4)
3. Ask for Wisdom (1:5-8)
4. The Humble Circumstances (1:9-11)
5. Crown of Life and Temptation Comes from Our Own Desires (1:12-18)

Section 2: Faith Shown by Works: 1:19-2:26

1. Listen, Do, and Don't Forget (1:19-27)
2. Favoritism Forbidden (2:1-13)
3. Faith Without Works is Dead (2:14-26)

[Remember that these sections are to just help you categorize what is being talked about in the specific chapters. You can use them to help you walk through the questions later.]

Read James 1-2

Deep Dive

1. What does James 1:2-4 teach about facing trials? How can this perspective change your approach to difficult situations?

[It says that we should count all trials as joy. It can help change our perspective by grounding us to what really matters and takes our minds off the things of this world and placing them on Jesus.]

2. Do you live out James 1:5? When you need something, wisdom specifically, from God, do you ask Him?

[Answers may vary. After the students answer, steer the conversation in the area of how important it is that we ask God for wisdom because His ways are so much greater than our own. We can go to the Creator of the Universe to help us with things but so often we try to do it all on our own.]

3. Read James 1:9-11. What does James compare rich people to? Why is this such a powerful comparison?

[Flowers that fade away. Because wealth seems so glorious and wonderful now on Earth, but in the end, it really means nothing.]

4. What does James 1:12-15 say about temptation? What does temptation do, if we give into it?

[Blessed is the person who remains steadfast; we shouldn't blame God when we are tempted because temptations can't come from Him. Temptation gives birth to death. It destroys us. The enemy uses temptations and sin to steal, kill, and destroy us (John 10:10)]

5. Why do you think James conveyed so clearly that God is never tempted to do wrong, and never tempts anyone else? Have you ever thought that temptation came from God? Why is this impossible?

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