

JAMES

EXPLORING THE ELEMENTS OF AN
AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

THE STUDY GUIDE

by Everett Hill

INTRODUCTION

HOW THIS STUDY GUIDE WORKS

This eight-week study guide is meant to be a companion to reading my book either for individuals or for groups. I hope this guide will help you dig further into God's message for you through James' letter.

In my book, there are sections at the end of each chapter called Reflection, Prayer and Action. These are meant to help you slow down and process through what you just read. They are, of course, not rigid and don't need to be the only thing you do.

While it's good to read books on your own, I've found that meeting together while reading a book can greatly benefit each of the readers. For one, it allows you to get different perspectives on what you've been reading. It also gives you a chance to explain what you've been reading, and since teaching is often the best way to learn, you have the opportunity to let it all sink in even better.

Taking the time to write down what you're learning while you're reading is also very helpful to many people. Read through the various exercises in this book to give you an idea of what to write down. The most important thing is to make sure you're not just glossing over information in an effort to check a box. You have the opportunity to hear from the God of the universe, so make an effort to soak up as much as you can while reading and thinking.

I would love to hear from you! Please send your comments about this book to info@everetth.com. Thank you.

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STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 1

Watch this "Read Scripture: James" video by The Bible Project: <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

Read through the entire Letter of James at least once.

Take 5-10 minutes to write down the initial impression you got from reading the entire letter.

Read the sections of the book that cover James 1:1-8, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Group discussion: Talk about what steadfastness means to you. Tell a story about a time where it was hard to stay close to Christ.

Notes:

WEEK 2

Read the sections of the book that cover James 1:9-15, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Take some time to write out the main areas where you have been tempted in the last few months:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Pray each day this week for God to free you from those temptations and to give you an eternal perspective about his faithfulness to you that will break the back of those temptations.

Group discussion: What does it look like to remain "steadfast under trial" (James 1:12)? How does God's promise of reward influence your steadfastness?

Notes:

WEEK 3

Read the sections of the book that cover James 1:16-27, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Write down areas in which your understanding of God has gotten clearer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down areas in which you want God to reveal himself more clearly to you:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray each day this week for God to reveal himself more clearly to you as a good father.

Group discussion: It is a challenge to read God's word and then apply it to our lives consistently. What's one of the hardest areas to do this? What are some ways you've found help you do this?

Notes:

WEEK 4

Read the sections of the book that cover James 2:1-26, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Write down ways in which you've treated others with partiality in the last few months:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down areas of your life where you believe but don't act on your beliefs as much as you should:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray each day this week that God would help you treat others as loved by God. Also pray that he would help you to combine your faith with action.

Group discussion: How have you acted with partiality in the past? What are some ways you could change that this week?

When you read the second half of this chapter, what impressions do you get about the balance of faith and works?

Notes:

WEEK 5

Read the sections of the book that cover James 3:1-18, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Write down and process through how your words have shaped your life over the last year:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

In James 3:17, it says, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." Which of these fruits of wisdom do you find lacking in your life? And what ways have you seen can you fix that with the Holy Spirit's help:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray each day this week for God to guide your words and fill you with wisdom.

Group discussion: Share how your words have changed your life. Discuss how coming to Christ can change what you speak.

Notes:

WEEK 6

Read the sections of the book that cover James 4:1-17, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Write down things that you desire God to do in your life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down false motives and desires that may be keeping your prayers from being fulfilled:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray each day this week for God to replace your imperfect passions with his glorious desires.

Group discussion: What was something that stuck out to you this week while you were reading?
Take some time to pray for each other to submit your hearts to God more fully.

Notes:

WEEK 7

Read the sections of the book that cover James 5:1-12, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

No matter what our bank account says, we have all acted like the greedy rich at some point or another. Write down ways that you have cheated others or kept from giving when you should have:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pray for forgiveness for any of those actions you haven't asked for forgiveness before.

Group discussion: What does patience look like in your life? How does your belief in God change the way you are patient? Do you find it hard to stick with your word? Why or why not?

Notes:

WEEK 8

Read the sections of the book that cover James 5:13-20, taking time to process through the Reflection, Prayer and Action sections.

Read through the entire Letter of James at least once again.

Take 5-10 minutes to write down your thoughts after having studied this letter for the last few weeks.

Schedule some time to meet with someone who didn't go through this study guide with you and share what ways studying James has changed your perspective on an authentic Christian life.

Pray each day this week for someone you know who needs to experience God in a way that will draw them to him.

Group discussion: Share a few points from the notes you wrote down over the course of this study. Talk about what was most impactful to you during this time.

Notes: