

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

James

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** JAMES 1-2
 - FAITH DURING TRIALS + TESTING
- **SESSION 2:** JAMES 3-5
 - FAITH IN ACTION

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEW ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: James](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: New Testament Letters](#)
- [The Bible Project: James Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

The news of Jesus was spreading rapidly! Paul, Peter, and some of the other apostles used letters to communicate with believers in churches all over the world. After seeing the resurrected Jesus, the apostles were on a mission to share the gospel with all people. Because Paul and the other writers experienced God's power dramatically, they were able to boldly declare their faith in Christ.

The apostle Paul traveled throughout the Roman Empire and Asia Minor to preach the gospel and plant churches. Many of the New Testament letters are addressed to groups of people or individuals that Paul met along the way. Other disciples of Jesus, including Peter, John, James, and Jude, also wrote letters to churches. These letters provide a glimpse into life in the first century and serve as a reminder of Jesus' teaching.

Although many of these letters include encouragement and praise, others offer warning or concern. Because Christians were facing great persecution, these letters served as a source of hope and renewal of faith along with caution against false teachers. Because the ability to read was uncommon and writing supplies were expensive, these letters were considered very valuable and were typically read aloud for the community of believers to hear.

BOOK OVERVIEW: JAMES

James, the brother of Jesus, advocated for Jesus as the Savior and taught believers how to respond in faith. The writing style of James displays his familiarity with the books of wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) as well as the teaching of Jesus. James compounded upon Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, sharing similar messages of humility, righteousness, and perseverance.

The message of James is directed towards those who believe in Jesus. Although Jesus taught that salvation is gained through faith alone, the book of James focuses on the actions that result from faith in Jesus. James was not advocating that good works earn salvation; instead, they serve as a genuine response to salvation. James encouraged the disciples of Jesus to live out their faith in actions/good deeds.

SESSION ONE: JAMES 1–2

FAITH DURING TRIALS + TESTING

- In James 1:1, how did James describe himself? What does this tell us about him?
- According to James 1:2, why should believers consider trials as joy? What does this look like practically?
- How does God respond to those who ask for wisdom (James 1:5)? In what areas do you need to ask God for wisdom?
- Have you ever thought that God was tempting you? What is the source of temptation (James 1:13–15)?
- What does it look like to be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer of the Word? Can you think of some characters in the Bible who exhibited this well?
- According to James 2:8, which command fulfills the law?
- What does it mean to have a dead faith (James 2:14–17)? How have you seen or experienced this?
- Which two biblical figures did James recall in James 2:22–25? Review Genesis 22 and Joshua 2 to read their stories.

SESSION TWO: JAMES 3–5

FAITH IN ACTION

- Summarize James 3:1–5 in your own words. How is the tongue compared to a rudder, a bridle bit, and a fire?
- Read James 3:13–15. How is godly wisdom different than worldly wisdom?
- What does it mean that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4)?
- Read James 4:7–8. How does nearness with God combat the enemy?
- How does James 4:13–17 encourage trusting in God’s timing over your own?
- James 5:11 references Job as an example of steadfastness in suffering. What do you know about Job’s story? How did he exemplify faith during trials?
- What does it mean to let your “yes” be “yes” and your “no” be “no” (James 5:12)?
- In James 5:13–16, what purposes and outcomes of prayer are provided?
- Read 1 Kings 18. Why did James reference Elijah as a powerful person of prayer?