

Study Guide

FAITH

brought to

Life

THE BOOK OF JAMES



Huron River
Methodist Church

Love God, Love People, Serve the World for Jesus Christ

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Introduction to the Book of James and This Study Guide

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. - James 2:1

The Weekly Plan

Monday – Read through the full chapter of James.

Remember the books of the New Testament weren't written to be parceled out in tiny verse by verse devotional thoughts, but to share elements of the full story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and what He means for our lives!

Tuesday – Lectio Divina: (literally divine reading) is a way of becoming immersed in the Scriptures very personally. Read the passage slowly four times. What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it, doodle it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it, act on it.

Wednesday – a Faith-Life Story from Scripture: The Bible draws upon itself, illustrating, confirming and expressing truths contained in real life accounts and recorded experiences of God's people. Read these stories and see James' truths lived out.

Thursday – Supporting Scriptures: help us apply what James is telling us using additional writings of other disciples and their writings.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection: is offered for you to pray through, with the opportunity to add your own words to the prayer each week.

To get the most out of this study: invite a friend to partner, meet up, or check in with as you do this study. Join a small group, Bible study, or Sunday school class that is using James as its curriculum, tied in with the sermons. There are additional resources listed in the back of this study guide. See the Get Connected Desk in the Atrium to find out more!

Overview of James

The Audience and Background. While some consider the Book of James to be written later, most scholars believe James is the earliest of the New Testament writings written specifically to Jewish believers in Christ. He writes “*to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations*” (1:1). These people, as in the “12 tribes of Israel” were likely scattered due to early persecution happening in Palestine that had begun in Jerusalem. (See Acts 8:1)

The Author is James “*the Lord’s brother,*” not James the Apostle, the brother of John who was martyred in Jerusalem about 44 A.D. (Acts 12:1-3). This was Jesus’ brother James. James did not believe in Him at first (John 7:2-5) but after Jesus’ Resurrection, James became not only a believer but a key leader in Jerusalem who was also at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).

The Theme of the Book of James is faith brought to life. Faith here is not the saving (or justifying) faith of Jesus Christ on the cross that brings salvation; but the lifestyle of faith that is produced as we live our lives “in Christ” (sanctifying us) that enables us to live new lives in Him.

Some Well Known Verses:

1:2-3 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.

1:5-6 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you... the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

1:22-24 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

2:14-17 *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*

4:7-8 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you.*

4:13-15 *Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

5:19-20 *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

WEEK 1 James 1

When the Bottom Falls Out

Monday – Read James 1

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let

perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. ⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. ¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless

is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina

Read James 1:1-4.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Read Daniel 3

Daniel 3:17-18 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, ... we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.

Reflection Questions:

How would the early church be empowered by the young men's faith here? Who else is affected?

What encouragement do you find here for the trials you're facing?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Romans 5:1-5 Suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope.

1Peter 1:6-9 Suffering challenges our faith and can lead to joy.

Psalms 66:10-12 Life's testing of faith helps refine and strengthen us.

John 16:33 When following Jesus, we will face trials, but Jesus overcame trials and so can we when we are in Him.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Thank you, Lord, that you are a God who understands hardship and suffering. Thank you that, because Christ was tempted in every way and did not sin, he is able to sympathize with our weakness and help us in our temptation. Lord, I confess that I am weak but also that your power works best in weakness. May your power work in me so that I may have endurance. I pray also that you would allow endurance to bring me closer to you so that my faith will be made stronger and become more mature and complete. Lord, please show me the areas where you are growing this endurance in me so that I may trust you more.

God, I pray that... _____

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

As you experience frustrations or difficulties throughout your day, ask God: "What are you trying to teach me here? How are you growing my endurance in Christ?"

WEEK 2 James 1:5-11

What Really Matters

Monday – Read James 1

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because

you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ **If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.** ⁶ **But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.** ⁷ **That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** ⁸ **Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.** ⁹ **Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.** ¹⁰ **But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.** ¹¹ **For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.** ¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. ¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives

freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 1:5-11.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Peter Walks on Water.

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew 14:29 ...*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.*

Reflection Questions:

Have you ever acted in faith and then doubted?

What wisdom might you need to ask Jesus for today?

What encouragement do you find here?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 2:1-6 Wisdom is from God, seek it as treasure.

Matthew 6:25-34 Worry is not from the Lord. Seek after Him first.

Colossians 3:1-4 Set your mind on heavenly things; seek Christ.

Psalms 25:4-5 Follow after the Lord.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Thank you, Lord, that you give generously to all without finding fault. God, I confess that I do not always trust you; please forgive my doubt and teach me to trust that you will do everything that you say that you will do. Please grant me your wisdom to see myself as I am and to see you as you truly are. You are an all-knowing and all-powerful God, help me to set my eyes on you even though I might not see you. Open my eyes to what truly matters so that I may humbly seek you in every area of my life.

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

When you are faced with an important decision today, ask God for his wisdom and ask Him to help you make the choice that best honors Him.

WEEK 3 James 1:12-18

The Anonymity of Sin

Monday – Read James 1

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.² Consider it pure joy, my

brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wildflower.¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.¹² **Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.**¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.¹⁶ **Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.**¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.¹⁸ **He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.**¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks

like.²⁵ *But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*²⁶ *Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.*²⁷ *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 1:12-18.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Joseph and Potiphar's Wife.

Read Genesis 39

Genesis 39: 6b-8a *Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he refused.*

Reflection Questions:

How do you think Joseph was able to stand against this temptation?

How does Joseph's source of strength give us courage?

How did God bless Joseph when he did not fall into temptation?

How does God want to bless us when we resist temptation?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 God will not tempt you, but life will. Stay strong in Him.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus is faithful and just. He will stand for us when we rest in Him.

Psalms 119:9-11 Trust in the Lord, live according to his Word.

Genesis 39:6-12 Follow in the ways of the Lord and do not stray from them.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your forgiveness that we did nothing to deserve. You are the unchanging source of every good and perfect gift. Lord, you have told us that our desires must die or else they will lead us away from you; take my desires and grant me yours so that I may please you in everything. Search my heart, Lord, and point out the places in my life that do not measure up to the person you are calling me to be. Lord, take these and make me more like Christ through your word of truth. I also pray that, when I am tempted to

you would help me to choose you instead so that I may grow in your love and receive the crown of life that you have promised.

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Today, when you feel the urge to act on an impulse or craving, pause and ask God: "Is this desire from you?" Make sure to listen before acting.

WEEK 4 James 1: 19-21

Taking Care of Business – God’s way (Speaking & Listening)

Monday – Read James 1

*1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.¹⁹ **My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that***

is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.²² *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*²³ *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror*²⁴ *and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*²⁵ *But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*²⁶ *Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.*²⁷ *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 1:19-21

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Mary the mother of Jesus.

Read Luke 1:26-56

Luke 1:38 *“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.”*

Reflection Questions:

How do you think Mary was able to listen and respond humbly to a messenger of God?

What can you take from this story to help you be quick to listen and welcome with meekness the implanted word?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 18:13 Listen carefully and well, answer thoughtfully and slowly.

Ephesians 4:25-32 Be thoughtful, respectful, honest, listen well.

Psalms 141:3 Guard your tongue and what you say.

Luke 6:45 The mouth speaks what is stored in the heart.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Thank you, Lord, for being a patient Father. Thank you for putting your life-saving word inside of us so that we may grow in your righteousness. Please teach me how to be patient with others the same way that you have been patient towards me. Please give me ears that listen for you before I act and that listen to others before I speak.

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Prayer does not always look like a dialogue. In fact: often the most important times of prayer do not involve speaking at all!

Today, set aside 5-10 minutes to be still and rest silently in the presence of God. As thoughts come into your head, offer each one to God and let Him take them away.

WEEK 5 James 1: 22-27

Mirror, Mirror

MONDAY – Read James 1

*1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wildflower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.¹³ When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.²² **Do not merely listen to the***

word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 1:22-27

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Parable of Two Sons.

Read Matthew 21:28-32

Matthew 21:31 *“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”*

Reflection Questions:

How does this parable compare words and actions?

Which is more important?

What are you having a hard time doing?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Luke 6:46-49 Practice what you know to be true.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 Trust in the word of the Lord in all things.

Psalms 1 Seek after the things of God, and you will stand the tests of time.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 The Lord your God is One. Trust in Him alone. Seek after Him alone. Tell these things to our children and think on them day and night.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Take a moment to sit quietly before God

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for giving us your perfect word for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Lord, help me to live out your commands out of love for you. Teach me to put your ways, which you have made known to us throughout Scripture, above my own so that I may obey you just as Jesus did. Help me to put your word into action this week by _____

and give me a heart like Jesus has for those who are overlooked and excluded.

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Take one of Jesus' teachings from Matthew 5:21-7:6 (i.e. loving your enemies) and ask God throughout the day to help you to put it into practice – and do it!

WEEK 6 James 2:1-13

Playing Favorites

MONDAY – Read James 2

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder. If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment. ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. ²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? ²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. ²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 2:1-13

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Jacob and Esau.

Read Genesis 25:19-34 & Chapter 27

Genesis 25:27 & 28 *The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

Reflection Questions:

How have you encountered favoritism in your life?

How can this story of Jacob and Esau help the modern church take James' words to heart?

Have you found yourself showing favoritism?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Micah 6:8 Seek justice, love, mercy and walk humbly with God.

Acts 10:34-35 Do not show favoritism. Treat others as you want to be treated.

Galatians 3:26-28 We are all one in Christ by faith.

Leviticus 19:15 Judge others as you wish to be judged.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Take a moment to sit quietly before God

Father God,

Thank you for loving us all enough to send your son to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and allow us to be called your sons and daughters. Please help me to love others the same way that you

do and let me act with justice towards everyone without favoritism. In the same way that you had mercy on me when I deserved your judgement, let me show mercy to my fellow sinners. Thank you, God, that Christ came into this world to save sinners and that those whom Christ sets free are free indeed! In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Throughout your day ask God to point out somebody to engage in conversation with or include who you wouldn't normally talk to or interact with. Listen for who he points out and follow through.

WEEK 7 James 2: 14-26

Faith and Works

MONDAY – Read James 2

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ² Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³ If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴ have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? ⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. ¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be

judged by the law that gives freedom,¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.¹⁴ **What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?**¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.²⁰ You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?²¹ Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?²² You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend.²⁴ You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.²⁵ In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 2:14-26

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: David and Goliath.

Read 1 Samuel 17

1 Samuel 17:45 & 46 ...*You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...This day the Lord will hand you over to me...*

Reflection Questions:

How does this story of David help you see faith at work?

How do you think David had such strong faith?

What did God do for the community because of David's faith?

What can God do for your family or community if you have a faith that works?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Ephesians 2:8-10 Saved by grace through faith in Jesus, not works.

Matthew 25:31-40 Treat others as you wish to be treated, as unto the Lord.

Titus 3:4-8 We serve and love the Lord because of what He did for us ... not from obligation, but love.

Isaiah 58:6-10 God is merciful and just; Treat others the same way.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

The Peace Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

WEEK 8 James 3: 1-12

Dragon Breath

Monday – Read James 3

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great

boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 3:1-12

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

Read Luke 18:9-14

Luke 18:11 & 18 *The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men"...But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven...and said..."God, have mercy on me, a sinner."*

Reflection Questions:

How does Jesus address the issue of how we use our tongue?

What is God convicting you about the use of your words?

What encouragement do you find in this parable?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 18:21 Words can heal and hurt. Be careful what you say.

Matthew 12:26-37 You will be judged by what you say and how you say it.

Colossians 4:6 Offer kindness and grace as you address others

Psalms 19:14 Ask God to direct your thoughts and words.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Take a moment to sit quietly with God.

1. Pray Numbers 6:24-26 over yourself. Picture God wrapping his love around you.

2. Pray this passage over a close friend, picturing them in your mind's eye.
3. Pray this passage over someone you do not know very well.
4. Pray this passage over someone who you really dislike and release any anger or tension you feel to God.
5. Pray this passage over your community whether it is your workspace, school, or town of residence.

Prayer Practice: Blessing others

As you go about your day, pray this scripture, whether out loud or in your mind, over three people you happen to run into or who come into mind.

WEEK 9 James 3: 13-18

The Cancer of Envy, Raising Your Spiritual IQ

Monday – Read James 3

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in

God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.¹³ **Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.** ¹⁴ **But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.** ¹⁵ **Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.** ¹⁶ **For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**¹⁷ **But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.** ¹⁸ **Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.**

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 3:13-18

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Cain and Abel.

Read Genesis 4:1-16

Genesis 4:7 *...sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*

Reflection Questions:

How would you describe Cain's wisdom?

How would you describe Abel's wisdom?

What wisdom does God give Cain? And you?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 13:18 A wise man receives discipline, a fool ignores correction.

1 Corinthians 1:25-31 God's wisdom and power is greater than man's.

Philippians 2:3-5 Lift others above yourself, humility is a virtue of God.

Ecclesiastes 7:11-12 Wisdom supports those who possess it.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Thank you, Lord, that you freely give wisdom from heaven to your children who ask for it. The wisdom of mankind doesn't come even close to yours. Please give me your wisdom and help me put it into practice in my life. God, I pray also that you would teach me humility and replace any envy in my heart with your peace.

I also pray that...

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Prayerful contemplation is a great practice to grow in intimacy with the Lord. Simply offer up a question or a verse to God and ask Him to reveal his truth.

Today, take time to contemplate Jesus' title as the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) - what does it mean? What does it teach us about who God is? Etc.

If you then find that you want to go another step further, contemplate also what it means for “the peace of Christ to rule in your heart” (Colossians 3:15)

WEEK 10 James 4: 1-10

Surrender to Win

Monday – Read James 4

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it

but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? ¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 4:1-10

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Manasseh King of Judah.

Read 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

2 Chronicles 33:12 *In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.*

Reflection Questions:

How does humility change the story for Manasseh?

What does this story show you about God?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Psalms 51 We have a fallen nature. We must repent and seek after the things of God.

1 Peter 5:5-7 Respect elders, be humble, God will honor you and give grace.

Isaiah 57:15 God restore the heart of those who truly repent and seek after Him.

Philippians 2:5-11 God exalts those who humble themselves and seek after Him.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Lord God, you are a great, loving, and holy father to your children. Thank you that you lift the humble up and honor the lowly. Remind me today that I can trust you

with _____

_____ and please grow me in the humility that Jesus showed by submitting to your will even to death. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Throughout the Bible, prayer is often paired with fasting to show humility to God and remind us of our dependence on Him. Prayerfully consider something that you could give up today, whether it is watching the news, coffee, a meal, or social media. Ask God throughout your day to teach you to depend on Him, **especially** when you crave that thing.

WEEK 11 James 4: 11-17

Major Errors (slander, judging, planning)

Monday – Read James 4

*4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. ¹¹ **Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹² There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? ¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such***

boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 4:11-17

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses.

Read Numbers 12

Numbers 12:1 *Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife....*

Reflection Questions:

How does God respond to Miriam and Aaron speaking ill of Moses?

How do you think this translates to our time?

Has this story convicted you to act in a different way?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Proverbs 16:9 The Lord determines our path ... Seek first the Lord and His guidance.

Luke 12:16-21 All blessings come from the Lord. Be grateful and generous to the Lord and others. Do not just think of yourself.

Psalms 90:12 The wisdom of God is more precious than life. His wrath is powerful.

Jeremiah 29:11 God will guide the steps of those who seek Him.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

James 4:14-15

...you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Lord God, thank you for your unchanging nature and your perfect and wise plans. Teach me, Lord, to understand that you alone know what the future holds. Please help me to trust your plans for me and _____

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

The Bible is full of examples of people praying the words and promises of scripture (i.e. Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9). Pick one of the supporting scriptures from this week (Day 4) and turn it into a prayer. For examples on what this might look like you might reference this week or last week's guided prayers.

WEEK 12 James 5:1-6

Money Matters

Monday – Read James 5

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your

flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ **Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.** ⁵ **You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.** ⁶ **You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.** ⁷ *Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.* ⁸ *You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.* ⁹ *Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!* ¹⁰ *Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.* ¹¹ *As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.* ¹² *Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.* ¹³ *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.* ¹⁴ *Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.* ¹⁵ *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.* ¹⁶ *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* ¹⁷ *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.* ¹⁸ *Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.* ¹⁹ *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,* ²⁰ *remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 5:1-6

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Parable of the Rich Fool.

Read Luke 12:13-21

Luke 12:15 ...*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*

Reflection Questions:

What connections might the early Christian church make between this story of Jesus and James 5:1-6?

What is abundance according to this story?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

1 Timothy 6:6-19 Share your good fortune with others, be generous and rich in good deeds.

Matthew 6:19-24 Be generous and help others. Serve God and others above yourself.

Proverbs 11:24-25 In helping others, you honor God and help yourself.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 The pursuit of money is meaningless. Seek the Lord and his ways.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Proverbs 11:25

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Dear God, _____

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

Memorize Proverbs 11:25 and recite it to God throughout the day, asking Him to engrain this verse into your heart and daily life.

WEEK 13 James 5:7-18

Patience & Prayer, and Waiting & Suffering

Monday – Read James 5

*5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. 7 **Be patient, then, brothers and sisters,***

until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.¹² Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 5:7-18

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Simeon and Anna Waiting.

Read Luke 2:25-38

Luke 2:36 & 37 *There was also a prophetess, Anna...She was very old;...a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.*

Reflection Questions:

How do you think Simeon and Anna were able to wait so long to see the Messiah?

What happened in their lives while they waited?

Where is God teaching you to wait, pray and have patience in your life?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Luke 18:1-8 Be patient and faithful; God is faithful and just.

Romans 12:12 Be patient, faithful, and hopeful; and just ... pray.

Psalms 40:1-3 Be patient and trust in the Lord: He is just.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Trust in the Lord, endure hardship, and never stop believing and hoping in the Lord.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Praying for other people:

Take a moment to identify a few people who need prayer, whether from sickness, injury, depression, etc.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the promise that you listen to the prayers of your children and that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. God, today I lift up _____ to you. I pray that...

In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

Prayer Practice:

There is something truly special about praying with other people. Prayerfully choose 2-3 different people to pray with today, whether face-to-face or over the phone.

WEEK 14 James 5:19-20

Rescue Mission, Rescue Faith, Restoring the Wanderer

Monday – Read James 5

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you. ⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable

crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.¹² Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.¹³ Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.¹⁹ **My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.**

Tuesday - Lectio Divina – Read James 5:7-18

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing you to? Circle it, write it. Write how or why God may be inviting you to reflect on it. Think about it, meditate on it, pray it.

Wednesday - A Faith-Life Story: Barnabas and John Mark.

Read Acts 15:36-41

Luke 15:37 & 39 *Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them...Barnabas took Mark...*

Reflection Questions:

Have you ever had someone give you a second chance?

Who might God be asking you to give a second chance?

Is there someone God is asking you to invite back to faith?

Thursday - Supporting Scriptures

Galatians 6:1-2 When possible, help others to be restored back to Christ.

Luke 15:1-7 The Lord rejoices when someone returns in faith to Jesus.

Ezekiel 34:11 The Lord seeks after his people and desires them to return to Him.

Jude 22-23 Be patient and merciful to those who doubt and question their faith but seek to lead them back to Jesus.

Friday – A Prayer Reflection

Praying for the lost or wandering:

Pray for the people in your life who do not know Jesus or who have walked away from their faith.

Pray that God would open their hearts to his word and that he would show them how much he truly loves them.

Pray that God would draw their hearts back to Himself.

Prayer Practice:

Reflect on the previous 14 weeks, which prayer practices were new to you? Which ones were particularly meaningful to you? How can you incorporate these practices into your rhythms throughout the week?

Contemplate prayerfully what areas God may want to grow you in.

Closing Reflection

As we close this journey through the Book of James, we've seen that faith was never meant to remain an idea we agree with, but a life we step into. Real faith if brought to life in the ordinary—really is how we speak, how we endure, how we serve, and how we trust God when life feels uncertain.

Through James, God calls us forward into a steady, lived-out obedience that is both deeply practical and quietly powerful: a faith that works because it is alive. So as you go, don't aim for perfection—aim for surrender. Don't wait for big moments—be faithful in small ones. And don't walk alone—lean into the grace of God daily! The same God who has been forming your faith through every trial and every truth in this series will continue His good work in you, shaping a life that not only believes the Word, but becomes a living expression of it.

Reflection Questions brought to Life:

1. What is one way God is inviting me to move from hearing His Word to actively living it out this week?
2. What is one “small” area of my daily life where faithfulness could make a big difference?
3. Who can walk alongside me as I continue to grow in a faith that is lived, not just learned?

May this study deepen your love, strengthen your faith, renew your hope as you life for Jesus!

2026 Book of James Resources for personal study and small groups

Afterwords Resources



The Bible Project



Video Series with Francis Chan



New International Version (NIV) Bible

Name
