



## **5-WEEK STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF JAMES**

As a follower of Jesus we know that our faith will be tried and tested. It is a reality that the Bible is very familiar with. Our hope however, is that these various trials will produce maturity and character while walking in the promise that trials are only temporary. The Bible tells us that as you endure various trials, your faith will grow and your relationship with Jesus will be strengthened (Heb. 10:36). During the next five weeks we will look at the Book of James and discuss the various topics he addresses that deal with perseverance through trials. Faith and action are key components for the Christian, but what that looks like in our day-to-day lives can be very difficult to apply. In fact, from a practical perspective, it requires a tremendous amount of faith to accomplish.

Below you will see a simple format to follow that walks you through this study of James. Our hope and prayer is that your group will grow in faith and action to provide *Pervasive Hope to Every Street and Every Person!*

**In Him,**

**Rock Church Community Group Team**



# JAMES CHAPTER ONE

**Weekly Memory Verse:** *“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”*  
(1:25 ESV)

## Key Verses:

- 1:2-4 – Trials *produce* perseverance.
- 1:5 – God gives *wisdom* liberally to those that seek it.
- 1:22 – We are commanded to be a *doer* of the Word.

## Observation Questions:

- Read 1:2-4
  1. Discuss a trial, or trials, that you have experienced as a follower of Christ?
  2. Did you have joy in the midst of the trial?
  3. What is the difference between Joy and Happiness? (Definition below)

[Happiness vs. Joy: The difference between joy and happiness is that joy is not based on circumstances and happiness is.]

- Read James 1:5
  1. Why do we need Godly wisdom?
  2. How do we obtain it?
  3. More Scriptures: Proverbs 1:7, 4:5, 9:10
- Read James 1:22
  1. What is the difference between a doer and a hearer of the Word?
  2. Are you a hearer or a doer of the Word? Explain.
  3. How do you become a doer of the Word?

## Weekly Action Homework:

- Read Romans 5:1-5 (below) together as a group. Does my reaction to trials produce what this verse promises?

*“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”* (Rom. 1:1-5 ESV)



# JAMES CHAPTER TWO

## Review Homework from Week One:

- Memory Verse from previous week – James 1:25
- Review previous week discussion of Romans 5:1-5

**Weekly Memory Verse:** *“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”* (1:26 ESV)

## Key Verses:

- 2:1-4 – Faith shows *NO* partiality
- 2:18 – Show your faith *BY* your good works
- 2:21-22 – Abraham was a friend of God *because* he put his faith into action

## Observation Questions:

- Read James 2:1-4
  1. Definition: Partiality; An inclination to favor one group or view or opinion over alternatives.  
Based on this definition of partiality, does your life show favoritism?
  2. What types of people do you show favoritism to?
  3. What are some ways we can overcome favoritism?
- Read James 2:18
  1. Can your works become prideful? Please discuss how this may be so.
  2. Are you serving to boast, or are you serving to bless?
- Read James 2:21-22
  1. Read Gen. 22:1-18 as a group. What about Abraham’s action’s made him a “friend of God”?
  2. Why was his sacrifice of Isaac so significant?
  3. Have any of us had a moment such as Abraham, where we were commanded to obey even if it broke our heart?

## Weekly Action Homework:

- Read Col. 1:10 (below) together as a group. Are you walking in a worthy manner? Why or why not? How can we better change our image of other people (Consider Rom. 12:10-18)?

*“So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”* (Col. 1:10 ESV)



# JAMES CHAPTER THREE

## Review Homework from Week Two:

- Memory Verse from previous week – James 2:26
- Review previous week discussion of Col. 1:10/Rom. 12:10-18

**Weekly Memory Verse:** *“So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!”* (3:5 ESV)

## Key Verses:

- 3:6 – The tongue *is* a world of evil and unrighteousness.
- 3:9-10 – With our tongue we bless God *and* curse men.
- 3:17 – Godly wisdom comes with order, manifesting the fruits of the Spirit.

## Observation Questions:

- Read 3:6
  1. What areas do you have trouble using your tongue for “righteousness”, but instead using it for “evil”?
  2. How does your tongue cause “stains” in certain relationships?
- Read 3:9-10
  1. Be honest!!! What sorts of cursing have you spoke toward people recently that you know is inappropriate?
  2. As a church dedicated to saving, equipping, and sending out soul winners for Jesus Christ, why is “cursing” some while blessing God such a problem?
  3. Examine verses 11-12, have everyone give insight as to how these verses compliment verses 9-10.
- Read 3:13-17
  1. Compare verse 13, 17, 18 vs. 14, 15, 16. Discuss the two types of wisdom. Give examples if necessary.
  2. Read Galatians 5:22-24 (fruit of the Spirit). Examine these verses with James 3:13-17, and discuss the similarities.
  3. How are these fruits manifested in your life? Maybe they are not manifested, how can you change this attitude in relation to biblical wisdom?

## Weekly Action Homework:

- Read 2 Peter 1:5-7 (below) together as a group and discuss how it relates to James 3.

*“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.”* (2 Pet. 1:5-7 ESV)



# JAMES CHAPTER FOUR

## Review Homework from Week Three:

- Memory Verse from previous week – James 3:5
- Review previous week discussion of 2 Peter 1:5-7

**Weekly Memory Verse:** *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”* (4:3 ESV)

## Key Verses:

- 4:1 – Our passions within us *cause* quarrels.
- 4:4 – Friendship with the world, *means* we are an enemy of God.
- 4:7 – *Submit* to God, *resist* the devil.

## Observation Questions:

- Read 4:1
  1. How have your passions caused quarrels between yourself and others?
  2. Read Matt. 5:21-26, compare this with verse 4:2. Discuss personal experiences with this, and explain how you grew out of that, or are still growing?
  3. Read 4:3. Can you see if your prayers may have been hindered based upon your “quarreling”?
- Read 4:4
  1. How have you been living in a life that is in friendship with the world?
  2. What are some precautions you can use to deny the world and its lies, and turn to live a righteous lifestyle, that is glorifying to Christ?
- Read 4:7
  1. To submit is similar to be subjected to someone or something. How should we “submit” to God? Consider these verses then discuss: 1 Cor. 15:28; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rom. 10:3.
  2. What are some practical ways to resist the devil? Consider Eph. 6:13-18, then discuss.

## Weekly Action Homework:

- Read John 14:12-15 (below) together as a group. Where am I being selfish in my prayers? Am I really seeking God’s will? Or am I seeking only selfish motives?

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* (John 14:12-15 ESV)



# JAMES CHAPTER FIVE

## Review Homework from Week Four:

- Memory Verse from previous week – James 4:3
- Review previous week discussion of John 14:12-15

**Weekly Memory Verse:** *“You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.”* (5:8-9 ESV)

## Key Verses:

- 5:7-11 – Always show patience and longsuffering *toward* our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 5:16 – The effective, and fervent, prayer of a righteous man *avails* much.
- 5:19-20 – To humbly love and serve someone, is to lead them to *repentance*.

## Observation Questions:

- Read 5:7-11
  1. How has the Lord tested your patience recently?
  2. What encouragement and wisdom have you gained from this test?
  3. Why would God want us to be “patient” in our sufferings? (Notice Eph. 4:30-32, how are these two texts working toward the same point?)
- Read 5:13-18
  1. We know that loving someone in hardship is “the right thing to do”, but biblically, according to this passage, why is it so important?
  2. Refer these verses with Matt. 9:1-8, what is the most important thing we can do for someone (which is the most important thing Christ did for us)?
- Read 5:19-20
  1. How serious is it to the Lord that none fall away from the faith? Give examples.
  2. Heb. 10:26-29 sounds harsh, but consider what the author states in Heb. 10:35-39. How can we use this as an encouragement?

## Weekly Action Homework:

- Read Hebrews 6:10-12 (below) together as a group. Why are we passionate about serving our communities at the Rock? What should our focus be in service and ministry?

*“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”* (Heb. 6:10-12 ESV)

