



JAMES

faith that works

LifeGroup Resource



LifeGroups

We believe

life change

happens best

in circles, not

in rows

Non Negotiables for LifeGroups

1. The Bible is your primary source
2. It is a discussion, not a sermon
3. Life Change happens in LifeGroups

42 EVERY DAY IN THE TEMPLE,
AND IN VARIOUS HOMES, THEY
CONTINUED TEACHING AND
PROCLAIMING THE GOOD
NEWS THAT JESUS IS THE
MESSIAH

ACTS 5:42

James 1:1-12

Trials on the Outside

How does James' identification of himself as a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1) shape our understanding of humility in Christian leadership?

James speaks of trials producing perseverance (1:2-3). How can we practically develop a mindset that considers trials as "pure joy"?

What is the difference between perseverance and mere endurance? How does perseverance lead to spiritual maturity (1:4)?

James instructs believers to ask God for wisdom in faith (1:5-6). How does godly wisdom differ from worldly wisdom, and why is faith essential in receiving it?

James warns against being "double-minded" (1:6-8). What does it mean to be double-minded, and how does this instability manifest in our spiritual lives?

James contrasts the lowly and the rich (1:9-10). How should a believer's identity in Christ shape their view of wealth, status, and humility?

Verse 11 describes how wealth fades like flowers in the sun. How can we maintain an eternal perspective on material possessions in a culture that values success and accumulation?

James 1:12 speaks of the "crown of life" as a reward for those who endure trials. How does this promise encourage us to remain faithful in suffering?

How do trials reveal the true condition of our faith, and how can they draw us closer to God rather than pushing us away?

How does James' teaching in these verses align with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)? What similarities do you see in their views on trials, wisdom, and the kingdom of God?

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James 1:13-18

Trials into Triumphs

James makes it clear that God does not tempt anyone (1:13). How does this challenge the common tendency to blame God for our struggles with sin?

What is the difference between temptation and a trial? How can we discern whether we are being tested in our faith or lured into sin (1:13-14)?

James describes temptation as a process that leads to death (1:14-15). How does this progression (desire → sin → death) play out in real life, and how can we recognize it early?

How does understanding the source of temptation (our own desires) help us take responsibility for our actions instead of making excuses (1:14)?

James warns about the deceptive nature of sin (1:16). How can we guard ourselves against being deceived by temptations that seem harmless at first?

James 1:17 describes God as the giver of “every good and perfect gift.” How does recognizing God as a generous giver change our perspective on contentment and gratitude?

James contrasts the instability of temptation with the unchanging nature of God (1:17). How does God’s unchanging character provide security in a world full of shifting moral standards?

In verse 18, James speaks of believers as being “brought forth by the word of truth.” How does the new birth in Christ empower us to resist temptation?

What role does God’s truth play in renewing our desires so that we seek Him instead of being drawn away by sin (1:18)?

How does this passage challenge us to evaluate our personal struggles with temptation and take proactive steps to grow in holiness?

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James 1:19-27

Hearing and Doing the Word

James urges believers to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger” (1:19). How can practicing these principles transform our relationships and spiritual growth?

James states that human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires (1:20). What are some common justifications we use for anger?

James calls believers to “get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent” (1:21). How does this relate to receiving God’s Word with humility, and what practical steps can we take to remove sinful influences from our lives?

What does it truly mean to “humbly accept the word planted in you” (1:21)? How does humility play a role in our spiritual transformation?

James warns against merely listening to the Word without putting it into practice (1:22). What are some signs that we are deceiving ourselves in our faith by hearing but not doing?

James compares a forgetful hearer of the Word to someone who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets their reflection (1:23-24). How does Scripture serve as a spiritual mirror, and what happens when we ignore what it reveals?

In verse 25, James describes the law as the “perfect law that gives freedom.” How can obedience to God’s commands lead to true freedom rather than restriction?

James challenges those who consider themselves religious but fail to control their tongues (1:26). How does our speech reflect the condition of our hearts, and what habits can help us develop godly speech?

James defines “pure and faultless” religion as caring for orphans and widows and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world (1:27). How does this challenge our modern understanding of what it means to be “religious”?

What does it look like in today’s world to live out a faith that actively cares for the vulnerable and resists cultural corruption (1:27)?

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James 2:1-13

The Sin of Favoritism

What are some ways favoritism shows up in workplaces, schools, or social settings, and how can we respond as Christians?

How does the way we treat people with different financial, social, or racial backgrounds reflect our understanding of God's love?

Have you ever been treated unfairly because of favoritism? How did it affect you, and what can we learn from that experience?

James challenges us to love our neighbor as ourselves (2:8). What practical steps can we take to intentionally include and care for people who are often overlooked?

How does favoritism influence the way we make decisions about friendships, hiring employees, or even how we interact with customers and coworkers?

James warns against dishonoring the poor (2:6). In what ways might we unintentionally look down on people based on their job, education level, or appearance?

How can we teach our children, families, or those around us to see people the way God sees them instead of valuing them based on worldly status?

Social media often promotes status, popularity, and wealth. How can we guard our hearts against showing favoritism based on online influence or appearances?

James emphasizes mercy over judgment (2:13). How can we practice mercy in situations where we are tempted to judge people based on stereotypes or assumptions?

What is one area in your daily life where you can intentionally break the habit of favoritism and reflect God's love more fully?

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James 2:14-26

Faith that Works

James asks, “What good is it if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?” (2:14). How can we recognize when our faith is becoming passive rather than active?

James gives the example of offering kind words to someone in need but not helping them practically (2:15-16). What are some modern examples of this, and how can we ensure our faith leads to action?

What’s the difference between good works as evidence of faith versus good works as a way to earn salvation? Why is this distinction important?

James says that even demons believe in God (2:19). How does this challenge the idea that simply believing in God is enough for true salvation?

Abraham’s faith was “made complete” by his actions (2:22). How have you seen your own faith grow and deepen through acts of obedience?

James also mentions Rahab, a woman with a complicated past, as an example of faith in action (2:25). What does her story teach us about who God can use for His purposes?

If someone examined your daily life, what kind of faith would they see? Would they see a faith that is alive and active, or one that is passive?

How can we balance trusting in God while also taking action in situations where faith and works must go hand in hand (e.g., job searching, relationships, finances)?

James compares faith without works to a dead body (2:26). What are some warning signs that our faith might be “dying,” and how can we revive it?

What is one area in your life where God is calling you to take action based on your faith? How can you step out in obedience this week?

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James 3:1-12

Controlling the Tongue

James warns that teachers will be judged more strictly (3:1). Why do you think greater responsibility comes with teaching God's Word, and how can this apply to leadership in general?

James says that if we could control our tongues, we would be "perfect" (3:2). Why is self-control in speech such a difficult challenge for most people?

James compares the tongue to a bit in a horse's mouth and a rudder on a ship (3:3-4). How have you seen the power of words steer someone's life in a positive or negative direction?

James describes the tongue as a small spark that can set a whole forest on fire (3:5-6). Can you think of a time when careless words caused significant damage?

James says no human can tame the tongue (3:8). If that's true, what hope do we have for controlling our words, and what role does God play in transforming our speech?

James points out that we use our tongues to praise God and curse others who are made in His image (3:9-10). Why is it so easy to fall into this contradiction, and how can we be more consistent in speaking life?

James uses the analogy of a spring producing both fresh and saltwater (3:11). What does this reveal about the relationship between our words and the condition of our hearts?

If someone recorded everything you said for a week, what do you think your words would reveal about your faith and character? What would you want to change?

"Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." How is this contradictory to what James is saying in chapter 3?

What is one step you can take this week to be more intentional about using your words to build others up rather than tearing them down?

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James 3:13-18

Wisdom comes from Above

James asks, “Who is wise and understanding among you?” (3:13). How would you define true wisdom, and how does it differ from intelligence or knowledge?

James says that wisdom should be shown by a good life and deeds done in humility (3:13). Why do you think humility is a key characteristic of true wisdom?

James contrasts wisdom from above with bitter envy and selfish ambition (3:14). How can we recognize when our decisions or actions are being motivated by envy or selfishness?

James calls earthly wisdom “unspiritual” and even “demonic” (3:15). How can worldly wisdom lead people away from God, even when it appears logical or successful?

Verse 16 says that envy and selfish ambition lead to “disorder and every evil practice.” Where have you seen these traits create division or conflict in relationships, workplaces, or churches?

James describes wisdom from above as pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial, and sincere (3:17). Which of these qualities do you find most challenging to live out, and why?

Why do you think peace and righteousness are connected in verse 18? How does seeking peace in relationships reflect godly wisdom?

What are some practical ways we can pursue godly wisdom in our daily decision-making, whether in family life, career choices, or personal struggles?

How can we discern whether the advice we receive from others is based on godly wisdom or worldly wisdom?

What is one step you can take this week to replace worldly thinking with godly wisdom in a specific area of your life?

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James 4:1-12

Proud or Humble

James says that fights and quarrels come from our own desires (4:1). How does this challenge the way we typically view conflicts?

James warns that we don't receive from God because we either don't ask or ask with the wrong motives (4:2-3). How can we examine our hearts to ensure our prayers align with God's will?

James calls friendship with the world "enmity against God" (4:4). What does it mean to be a "friend of the world," and how can we guard against it while still living in the world?

Verse 6 says that God "opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." How have you seen pride cause problems in your own life or in relationships?

James tells us to submit to God and resist the devil (4:7). What does true submission to God look like in daily life, and how does it empower us to resist temptation?

James calls us to "come near to God" with repentance and humility (4:8-9). What practical steps can we take to draw closer to God when we feel distant?

Verse 10 says, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." How does humility lead to true strength and blessing in our lives?

James warns against slandering and judging others (4:11). How does speaking negatively about others reflect a wrong view of both them and God's role as judge?

Why do we often justify judging others while ignoring our own faults? How can we develop a heart that seeks restoration rather than condemnation?

What is one area in your life where you need to practice humility, whether in your relationship with God or with others?

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James 4:13-17

Our Will vs. God's Will

James warns against making plans without considering God's will (4:13). How often do we make decisions without praying first, and what are the dangers of doing so?

James reminds us that life is like a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes (4:14). How does this perspective challenge the way we prioritize our time, relationships, and goals?

In verse 15, James says we should say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." What does it look like in everyday life to truly submit our plans to God's will?

How can we balance responsible planning for the future while still trusting God and being open to His direction?

James warns that boasting in our own plans is arrogant and evil (4:16). How does pride show up in the way we talk about our future, and how can we develop a humble perspective?

What are some practical ways to seek God's guidance in both big life decisions and everyday choices?

Verse 17 says that if we know the right thing to do but don't do it, it is sin. Why do we sometimes hesitate to do what we know is right, and how can we overcome that hesitation?

How does this passage challenge our culture's mindset of self-reliance and the idea of being the "master of our own destiny"?

How can we develop a heart posture that truly trusts in God's plans rather than our own understanding?

What is one area in your life where you need to surrender control and trust that God's plan is better than your own?

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James 5:1-6

Warning to the Rich

James warns the rich about their treasures rotting and their clothes being moth-eaten (5:2). How does this imagery challenge our modern focus on wealth and material possessions?

James speaks about the cries of the laborers who have been exploited (5:4). How does this passage challenge the way we view our responsibility toward workers or those in less fortunate situations?

What are some ways we may be tempted to hoard wealth or resources, even unintentionally, and how does that reflect our values?

In verse 5, James describes the rich as living in luxury and self-indulgence. How does our society promote the idea of living for comfort, and how can we counteract that with a life of generosity and service?

James says that the cries of the oppressed have reached the ears of the Lord (5:4). What does this teach us about God's heart for justice, and how can we partner with Him in bringing justice to the world?

The passage highlights the misuse of wealth to oppress others. How can we ensure that our financial practices align with biblical values, such as fairness, justice, and generosity?

James condemns the rich for using their wealth to exploit and harm others. In what areas of life do we need to examine our attitudes toward wealth and power?

James points out that the rich will be held accountable for their actions (5:1-3). How does this idea of accountability shape the way we approach financial stewardship in our own lives?

How can we maintain a kingdom perspective on wealth, one that recognizes the temporary nature of material things and focuses on eternal values?

James encourages patience and warns the wealthy of their coming judgment. How does the message of this passage challenge the way we use our resources in light of eternity?

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James 5:7-11

Waiting on the Lord

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James 5:12-20

Effective Prayer

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**I hope this resource
reaches you well.
Thank you for leading
FBC's LifeGroup! May
God Bless You**

Aubrey Bond

Minister of Students & Discipleship