

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

- a. Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.
- b. Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.
- c. Write your answers and verses you have used.
- d. Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

James: Lesson Three

Day One: The Crown of Life. Read James 1:12-17, concentrating on verses 12.

1. In verse 12, what does James say about the person who endures the test?
2. Is being blessed the same as being happy?
3. Do we receive the crown because of our actions? Support your answer with this verse and another verse of promise.

Day Two: Resist Temptation, James 1:13-15

1. We have discussed trials which we have to endure, now James moves on to temptations that we have to resist. Do temptations come from God? What argument does James use?
2. Where is the source of temptation? What does Matthew 15:17-20 have to say about the source?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

3. Is there a difference between "thinking" and "doing" with sin? See Matthew 5:28.

Day Three: Deadly Progression, James 1:14-15.

1. List the progression of temptation in this passage. Note the comparison to birth.
2. What is the ultimate result?
3. How does God provide escape for us? Read Romans 6:22.
4. Where do we find the power to avoid temptation and sin? In Ephesian 5:26, what is "God's soap"?

Day Four: Don't Be Deceived, James 1:16-18.

1. Look up the following verses concerning warnings against deception: Colossians 2:8, Ephesians 5:6, 1 John 1:8, and Titus 1:10.
2. Where do the deceptions come from? Is it any different today?

3. What change does God make in us (verse 18)?
4. Compare the birth in verse 15 to the birth in verse 18. By what process are we born in verse 18?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:22-25. What is the word of truth?

Day Five: Challenge/Personal

Compare your life to that of the early Christians. Make a list to share of the blessings we take for granted that they did not experience.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

4. What is our attitude to be to receive God's word of truth?

Day Two: James 1:22-25

1. What is the command in verse 22?
2. Who is the deceiver in this verse? Read Jeremiah 17:9.
3. How does the mirror illustration make this passage more understandable?
4. Why is the law referred to as the "law of Liberty"?
5. What is the result from both listening and doing according to God's word?

Day Three: James 1:26-27

1. What defines a religious person in our culture?
2. How do these verses define a religious person?
3. This verse introduces some of the duties of a Christian, the first applies to speech, the second to visiting and third is to be stain free. Think of some examples of how we can live out these duties in our daily lives.

Day Four: Review James 1

1. Make a list of some of the cause and effect connections presented in this chapter.
2. List some of the statements that reveal the nature of God.
3. List some of the statements that reveal the nature of godless men.

Day Five: Challenge/Personal

In what ways have you been challenged to change your behavior and attitudes?
What encouragements have you found in this first chapter of James?
Share if you can any new insight you have found in this study so far.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

- a. Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.
- b. Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.
- c. Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

James: Lesson Five

Day One: Read James 2 for an overview of the chapter.

1. There are two sections to this chapter. Identify the themes of verses 1-13 and 14-27. Try to use your own words.

2. James 1:22 exhorted us to be doers of the word. Make a list of ways Christians are shown to be doers/not doers in this chapter.

3. Look up the word "antinomianism" and write down a definition. (For history buffs – the Antinomian Controversy: covenant of works, versus covenant of grace - was a huge religious and political controversy in the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1636 to 1638).

4. How do the following verses fit with your definition of antinomianism?
James 1:25, James 2:8-13.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Day Two: Reread James 2:1-13, concentrating on verses 1-4.

1. How does James describe Jesus in verse 1?
2. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Why is Jesus Christ glorious?
3. What are we instructed not to do since we believe in this glorious Lord?
4. What do the following verses have to say about partiality? Deuteronomy 16:19, 1 Corinthians 1:26 and Galatians 3:28?
5. What example of partiality does James give in verses 2-4?
6. Other than wealth, how are we tempted to show partiality in the church?

Day Three: Refer back to James 2:5 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

1. What type of people made up most of the early church?
2. How is this supported by what Jesus says in Matthew 11:2-5?
3. What is God's purpose in whom he calls?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

4. What are "judges with evil thoughts" in verse 4?
5. What are the blessings/inheritance of the poor, verse 5?

Day Four: Reread James 2:5-7.

1. Describe how James' readers had treated the poor.
2. Why does James consider partiality to the rich as absurd? There are three reasons, list them.
3. Who are the people who expect/receive favorable treatment in our culture?
4. Do you think that we treat the poor with equal respect and concern within our churches?
5. Read Philippians 2:6-11. What does this passage say about the noble/honorable name by which we were called, verse 7?

Day Five: Challenge/Personal

Share if you can any new insight this study has given you so far. Have you found any new way to be a doer of the word?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

- a. Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.
- b. Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.
- c. Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish

James: Lesson Six

Day One: Read James 2:8-14

1. What is the difference between keeping the letter of the law and the spirit of the law?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-20. What does Christ have to say about the law?
3. James refers to the summary of the law found in Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 23:23-28 in verse 8. What does James call this summary?
4. Read Romans 13:8-10. What does Paul call the fulfillment of the law?
5. How is showing favoritism breaking God's law? (Obviously it is not one of the Ten Commandments!)

Day Two: Mercy

1. What does James ask of us in verse 12?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Verse 7 states that judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Read the following passage in connection with this idea: Matthew 18:21-25.
3. Is mercy a requirement in Christian living? Read Micah 6:8.
4. How does God treat us? Read Psalm 103 listing all the things God does for us out of mercy.

Day Three: Judgment

1. Why does James bring up the idea of judgment in verse 13?
2. Does God judge our works? Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.
3. Why is it important to remember this when we "speak and act", verse 12?
4. Should our actions be motivated by fear or love? Find a supporting verse.

Day Four: Mercy triumphs over judgment! As believers, we have already been saved and assured of eternal life in Christ. Read the following passages that confirm our assurance.

1. Ephesians 5:25-27.
2. 1 John 4:13-19.
3. Hebrew 10:19-23.
4. 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Day Five: Challenge/Personal

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

- a. Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.
- b. Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.
- c. Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson: Seven

Day One: Read James 2:14-26

1. What is the first question in verse 14?
2. Does this someone actually have faith? What word describes a person who says one thing and does another?
3. What is the second question in verse 14? How would you define saving faith?
4. Describe the actions of verses 15-16.
5. James says in verse 17 that faith without works is dead. Read Luke 10:25-37. Is this same principle illustrated in this parable? Why or why not?

Day Two:

1. State the argument James makes in verse 18 about works and faith.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Is it possible to have saving faith and not act out of it?
3. Jews would recognize the statement "God is one", also known as the confessional prayer, the "Shema Yisrael", from Deuteronomy 6:4. Would it be surprising that James would state that the demons also believe this?

Day Three:

1. In verse 20, James uses some very strong language! Read Matthew 5:21-25. How important does James believe the relationship between works and faith to be?
2. What is the first illustration of works in verses 21-24?
3. James bases this appeal for faith and works on Genesis 22:12. Paul uses Abraham as an example of faith without works in Genesis 15:6. Can both claims be true? Why or why not? Give your reasons.

Day Four:

1. Who is used as the second illustration of faith and works in verses 25-26?
2. Compare what you know about Abraham and Rahab as heroes of faith. Do you know anything from the Bible that would make them seem less heroic?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Day Five: Challenge: How does what we learned in this lesson relate to Hebrews 8:18, "On the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God."