

-
1. What facts do you already know about the Epistle of James?
 2. Read James 1 every day. (a) Write down all the commands that you see. (b) Would you say you are currently obedient in each of these commands? Why or why not? (c) What do you think God would have you do, and what will you do?
 3. Memorize James 1:2-3.
 4. James says we are to count or consider it joy when we are facing trials (v 2). How can you use the following verses to encourage yourself or someone else to face their trials joyfully? Job 19:25-26; Psalms 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 1:2-4; and 1 Peter 1:6-7.
 5. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. (a) What did Christ say was the answer to Paul's trial (thorn in the flesh)? (b) How did Paul respond to that particular trial? (c) What do you think Paul meant when he said he would rather *glory* in his infirmities? (d) How does this relate to what James says about being joyful in trials?
 6. Think of a Biblical example of someone who went through a trial, and list the ways God used it to perfect her or him.
 7. Honestly answer the following questions: (a) What is normally your first response to a trial? (b) Do you welcome trials as opportunities to develop in maturity towards Christ? How do you welcome them? (c) Why do you think we as believers resist trials?
 8. Reflect over past trials you have had. How do you think they have helped you grow in the area of patience or endurance?
 9. List the trials you are currently going through. Thank God for each one. Thank God for the joy that transcends each one. Thank Him in advance for the joy and confidence and patience you'll gain when the test or tests are over. Ask God for the grace and wisdom to pass each test.
 10. (a) What is the greatest trial you are facing today? (b) What is your prayer request to the Lord?

1. Read James chapter one. (a) List all of the illustrations from nature that James uses in chapter one. (b) Why do you think he does this?
2. Memorize James 1:5.
3. James tells us that we should ask for wisdom when facing trials. (a) What does James say subsequently regarding wisdom in James 3:13-17? Contrast the world's (man's) wisdom with godly wisdom from these verses. (b) How will this help you know what kind of wisdom you possess the next time you face a trial?
4. Other than Solomon, find one example in Scripture where someone facing a trial sought God's wisdom. (a) What was the result? (b) What principle can you glean for your life?
5. Find an example in Scripture where someone facing a trial did *not* seek God's face for wisdom. (a) What was the result? (b) Whose or what wisdom did they seek? (c) What can you learn to avoid from this example?
6. Give an example from your life when you faced a trial and went to other sources first. What was the result of that? In contrast, give an example of when you were faced with a trial and went to Him first. What was the result of this Biblical approach to trials?
7. (a) Can you name some instances in your life where God's answer to your prayer for wisdom came much later? (b) What did you learn?
8. Try to write down at least one trial that comes your way this week. Honestly evaluate the situation. (a) Did you first turn to the Lord or to other sources? (b) If to Him, did you ask for (and want) His wisdom or did you want relief from the trial? (c) If you did seek Him first for wisdom, how did He answer your prayer? What situation in your life today should prompt you to seek God's wisdom? Write a prayer request to the Lord.

1. Read James 1:9-11. (a) Skim the rest of the book of James and note how many other references there are to the rich and the poor. (b) Why do you think this is so?

2. Memorize James 1:9-10.

3. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-19. (a) What is God's standard for contentment? (b) What pitfalls await those who desire wealth? (c) What constitutes true riches?

4. (a) Read Proverb 10:15; 13:7; 14:20; 22:2; 22:7; 28:11. Contrast the rich and the poor. (b) What principles can you glean from these verses?

5. (a) In reading the story in Luke 16:19-31, what things stand out to you as warnings to the wealthy? (b) What principles or observations have you gleaned from reading this account?

6. Honestly evaluate where you are financially. (a) Do you believe before God that you are being a good steward of what God has given you? (b) How can you improve? (You might record your spending this week!)

7. Are you rich? Poor? Regardless of your status, what are some things you can rejoice in today?

8. (a) In what ways, current or past, has money been a trial in your life? (b) Did you pass the test(s)?

9. (a) Are you or anyone you know going through a financial trial? (b) What is your prayer to God through this trial?

Temptations: Where Do They Come From?

1. Read James 1:1-15 and list any comparisons or contrasts you see between trials and temptations.
2. Memorize James 1:13-14.
3. Read Matthew 6:13. According to James 1:13, God doesn't tempt anyone to commit sin, so why do we need to ask Him to protect us from something He apparently wouldn't lead us into in the first place? Prove your answer Biblically.
4. Read Psalm 119:11, Matthew 26:41, Ephesians 6:10-18, and James 4:7. (a) How can you use these verses to help yourself and others when dealing with temptation? (b) What advice could you give?
5. Read 2 Samuel 24:1. (a) Who is tempting David to sin? (b) Read the same account in 1 Chronicles 21:1. (c) Who is tempting David to sin in this account? (d) How do you reconcile these two accounts? (e) How does this relate to James 1:13? (f) What does this teach you about comparing Scripture with Scripture? (g) Why is it dangerous to try and prove doctrine on one verse alone?
6. Hebrews 2:18 says, "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." When has God come to your aid in the hour of temptation?
7. Is there an area of temptation you are facing today? Confess it to the Lord, and determine to change (repent). If necessary, share with someone who will hold you accountable! Don't dabble with sin!
8. What is your prayer request as you reflect on question #7?

The Greatest Gift of All

1. Read the whole book of James. (a) Record each occurrence, chapter and verse, when James used the word *brethren* or *beloved brethren*. (b) Why do you think James uses those terms?

2. Memorize James 1:17.

3. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. (a) What was Jehoshapat's particular trial? (b) How did he choose to focus on God's goodness? (c) What was the result?

4. Read Moses' rehearsal of Israel's failure at Kadesh-barnea in Deuteronomy chapter 1. (a) What were the good gift(s) God was giving them? (b) What was the Israelite's response? (c) How did God respond to their ingratitude? (d) What principle(s) can you glean from this account?

5. (a) Why did God save you? See the following verses. (Each one should produce a different answer.) John 15:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 1 Peter 1:15-16; and 1 Peter 2:9. (b) Would you say that these are the qualities that exemplify your life? Why or why not?

6. Everyday write down at least ten "good and perfect gifts" that the Lord has blessed you with. (You should end up with a total of 70.) Praise and thank Him for each one!

7. We are the "firstfruits" of His creation, born again to serve Him. How are you serving the Lord? What are you giving back to Him? Is there an area of ministry that He is calling you to? Pray and then OBEY!

8. Write a praise of thanksgiving to God for your salvation!

How to Respond to God's Word

1. Read James 1. (a) What are the terms that James uses for the Word? (b) What is the significance of these words in their context? (c) Also, make note of all the responses we are to have towards God and His Word. (d) Are these your responses?

2. Memorize James 1:19-20.

3. What do you think James means in verse 20?

4. Read Numbers 20:7-13. (a) What did God tell Moses to do? (b) What did he do instead? (c) What was the sin that Moses committed? (d) What was the result of his sin? (e) How does this relate to what James says in 1:19-21? (f) What advice in James did Moses fail to do? (g) What principles can you learn for your own life when facing the temptation to go against what God has told you to do?

5. Recall a time when you did not respond to God's Word in a proper way. What was the result?

6. Honestly answer the following questions: (a) Are you eagerly listening to God and His Word? (b) Are you slow to speak back to Him? (c) Are you slow to get angry at His Word? (d) Are you meekly receiving the Word?

7. In what area of your life is God speaking to you as a result of this chapter? What is your prayer to God?

1. Read James 1, noting all the words that are repeated at least 3 times or more. Do you think there is any significance to the repetition?

2. Memorize James 1:22.

3. James mentions in 1:22 that those who hear the Word, but do not do it, deceive their own selves. (a) What other things can we be deceived about? Look at 1 Corinthians 3:18; 6:9-10; 15:33; Galatians 6:3-4, 7; James 1:26; and 1 John 1:8. (b) After contemplating how self-deceived we can be about many things, what do you think your response should be? Use Scripture to back up your answer.

4. Read Matthew 13:1-23 noting the various soils and what they represent. Which one(s) are actually saved, i.e., actually doers? Support your findings.

5. Read Deuteronomy 28 listing all the blessings of obedience and all the curses of disobedience. What principles can you glean for your life from this chapter?

6. Why do you think a mirror is a good illustration of God's Word?

7. Think about the last few sermons you have heard. (a) Was your soul stirred? (b) How have you applied what you heard? (c) If you did not, how should you have applied it? (d) What is keeping you from being a doer?

8. Is there an area in your life where you are failing to be a doer of the Word? What is your prayer to God?

The Test of True Religion

1. We have now completed chapter one. Read over James 1 and write down one truth that God has impressed upon you.
2. Make two columns. Label the left column "True religion" and the right "Vain religion." (a) According to James chapter one, what things validate true religion and what things validate vain religion? Put them in the proper columns. (b) After looking over these two columns, how would you evaluate your own religion—true or vain?
3. Memorize James 1:26-27.
4. (a) What outward manifestations of religion were the rulers of Sodom and the people of Gomorrah practicing in Isaiah 1:10-17? (b) What does God say about those works? (c) What does He say is "true religion?" (d) Does James say the same thing?
5. (a) According to Zechariah 7:8-14, what happens when we refuse to be obedient in the area of being "truly" religious? (b) What lessons can you glean for your own life?
6. Read Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24. (a) What do these say about Demas? (b) Read 2 Timothy 4:10 to see what happened to Demas. (c) What warning(s) do these verses communicate? (d) How does this coincide with James 1:27? (e) Do you think Demas was truly redeemed? Why or why not?
7. Is there someone in your neighborhood or church that you should be "visiting?" Ask God for wisdom and discernment on how you might best demonstrate His love to that person.
8. (a) What activities are you involved in that are merely external with no inner spiritual significance? (b) Which activities actually show true religion? (Examples: visiting the fatherless and widows, keeping your tongue bridled, and keeping yourself unspotted from the world) (c) What should be added and subtracted from your weekly round of "religious" activities in order to align yourself with God's priorities?
9. Write a prayer request for either how you might better minister to those in "affliction" or how you might keep yourself "unspotted from this world."

Test of Brotherly Love

1. Read James Chapter 2. What are the “tests of faith” that James mentions in this chapter? In other words, what things does James say that prove the reality of one’s faith?

2. Memorize James 2:1.

3. Read Deuteronomy 10:17-19; 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:9-11; and Colossians 3:25. What do these verses teach you about God’s impartiality?

4. (a) According to 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, whom has God chosen? (b) How would you say that compares with the current “health, wealth, and prosperity” gospel?

5. After carefully looking over James 2:1-5 answer the following questions. (a) If you were a visitor in the church James was writing to, what would you have heard and seen? (b) In what ways has each person involved (rich, poor, church member, and the Lord) been dishonored? (c) How does the title that James assigns our Lord in verse 1 help put this behavior in perspective?

6. (a) What characteristics about certain people make it difficult for you to associate with them? (b) Are those personal characteristics sin, or are they just preference issues? Ask God to help you love them and determine not to be a “respector of persons” or show partiality.

7. (a) In what ways are you showing partiality in your church to the people who attend there? (b) What changes do you need to make? (c) Is there someone whom you intentionally ignore? Why? Determine to get out of your circle of friends, your comfort zone, and reach out to all (especially visitors), as God would have you do.

8. After looking over question number 7, especially part b, what is your prayer request?

1. (a) Read James 2, noting all of the responses that we should have towards others. (b) Are these yours?

2. Memorize James 2:9-10.

2. Answer the following questions after reading James 2:6-13. (a) How does James define the royal law in verse 8? (b) How do these verses respond when you argue that showing partiality is only a small sin? (c) What responsibilities do being under a law of liberty place upon you?

3. Find an example in Scripture where someone did or did not fulfill the "royal law." What example(s) should you avoid or follow?

4. Read Matthew 18:21-35. (a) What does this passage teach us about being merciful? (b) What lessons can you learn for daily living?

5. (a) In what ways do you think you can show mercy to your husband and children? (b) In what ways are you lacking in mercy towards them? Confess, repent, and be determined to change.

6. (a) Are there some "laws" in God's Word that you are not obeying because you think they are not as essential as the "BIG ONES"? (b) Are there some "laws" of the land (government) that you are not obeying, thinking that they are not as essential as the "BIG ONES"?

7. (a) This week write down the ways in which you find yourself showing favoritism. (b) What did you learn about yourself and about this sin? (c) What will you do to change?

8. Think of one person you tend to ignore. What might you do to show love or mercy to this person? Put your need in the form of a prayer request.

1. (a) Read James chapter 2 noting how many times faith and works are mentioned together. (b) Why do you think James emphasizes that? (c) How does James contrast true faith and dead faith?

2. Memorize James 2:19-20.

3. (a) What is Paul saying in Galatians 2:16? (b) In Ephesians 2:8-9? (c) Are these a contradiction to James 2:14-20? (d) Why or why not?

4. Read John 15:1-8. (a) What illustration did Jesus use for spiritual fruitfulness? (b) What is the prerequisite for fruitfulness? (c) What fruit should we be bearing according to verses 9-14? (d) How does this relate to what James says in James 2:14-20?

5. Read John 8:12-47, where Christ spoke to the Pharisees regarding the characteristics of those who know Him and those who do not. (a) Make a list of those things that characterize those who know Him and those who do not, for example, dead faith vs. true faith. (b) What have you learned?

6. If you were asked the question, "Of what use is your faith?" what would you say?

7. (a) From the text, how does Christian faith differ from the faith that demons have? (b) What are some ways that you as a believer can demonstrate your faith by your works?

8. Put your "faith to work" by endeavoring to share your faith with at least one other person this week. (This may even be one who claims they have faith, but by their lack of works, they prove their faith is dead.)

9. Is your faith working? What is your prayer regarding this matter of genuine faith?

1. Read James chapter 2 and share one truth God has impressed you with in this chapter.
2. Memorize James 2:26.
3. Read James 2:21-26, especially noting the account of Abraham. Now read Romans 4, especially noting what Paul says about Abraham. A contradiction seems to exist between what Paul says about Abraham and what James says about Abraham. How do you reconcile this?
4. (a) What did Rahab believe about God? See Joshua 2:1-15. (b) How did she show it?
5. What qualities of faith did Abraham, the friend of God, have in common with Rahab, the harlot?
6. Choose one example from Hebrews 11 (besides Abraham or Rahab) and read the Old Testament account of his or her example of faith. What truths did you learn about genuine faith?
7. (a) In what way(s) have you exercised your faith lately to prove that it is genuine? (b) Is there something God is asking you to do that you are saying "no" to? Why? (c) Does what you confess at church match what you say and live at home? (If you are brave, ask a member of your family).
8. Ask God to increase and strengthen your faith throughout the day. Look for specific opportunities to trust Him more fully. Record those opportunities as a reminder of the faithfulness of God.
9. We have now completed two chapters in James. What has God impressed upon you to change to prove that your faith is real? Put your answer in the form of a prayer request.

The Danger of the Tongue

1. Read James 3:1-6. (a) According to James, where does ungodly speech come from? (b) What words does James use to describe our speech?
2. Memorize James 3:6.
3. Read Proverbs 10: 11,19; 13:3; 15:1; 16:24, 27; 17:28; 29:20; and 31:26 making note of what each verse teaches about good speech and/or evil speech.
4. Read Acts 5:1-11. (a) How do you know that Ananias and Sapphira did not bridle their tongues? (b) What was the bigger issue here? (c) What principle(s) can we as wives glean?
5. Cite some Biblical examples where misuse of the tongue resulted in defilement of the whole body (besides Ananias and Sapphira).
6. Proverb 31: 26 says this about the virtuous woman: "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness." (a) In what ways does this characterize the tone you set in your home? (b) Can you recall some examples where misuse of your tongue resulted in defilement of the whole body?
7. Do any of these forms of speech need to be "bridled" in your life? Gossip? Flattery? Lying? Hurtful joking? Sexual overtones? Profanity? Harsh, angry words? Negative speech? Criticism? Boasting of self? Putting others down? Saying too much? Praises to God (verbal or sung) that are not sincere? Extremes? Exaggerations? Un-Christ-like slang (gee-whiz, golly, gosh, darn, screwed-up, etc.)? Any others?
8. If you could replay the conversation around your dinner table last night, what would your talk reveal about you?
9. Ask the Lord to teach you to guard your tongue and to speak only what is edifying to others. (Perhaps use Psalm 19:14, Psalm 141:3, or Psalm 120:2 as your prayer request.)

1. Read James 3, especially noting verses 7-12. What are some reasons given here why God might not accept your praise?
2. Memorize James 3:10.
3. Compare and contrast the ungodly man's speech with that of our Lord in Psalm 12.
4. Read Exodus 15:20-21 and Numbers 12:1-16. (a) Who is using her mouth to bless God and to curse men? (b) Who was she speaking evil of and why? (c) What happened to her? (d) What principles can you learn for your life in avoiding this awful sin of murmuring?
5. (a) Read the following verses to see what terms are used to describe the tongue. (b) Do any of them describe your speech lately? Psalm 5:9; 10:7; 12:3; 15:2-3; 50:19; 52:2-4; 109:2; 120:2-3; Proverb 6:17; 10:31; 12:19; 17:4; 17:20; 25:23; 28:23.
6. (a) Read Colossian 3:1-17 and Ephesians 4:22-32, noting what our speech was like before our conversion and then after our conversion. (b) Does your speech reflect the old man or the new man according to these passages?
7. (a) What are some ways you think we can use our tongues for good? (b) For evil?
8. Is there anyone that you need to seek forgiveness from for the way you have used your tongue? Perhaps from gossip, hurtful words, slander, or lying? Confess it and determine to put off all evil speaking!
9. We have now studied two lessons regarding our speech. What has the Lord revealed to you in this area, and what change(s) do you need to make? Put your answer in the form of a prayer request.

1. Read over James chapter 3 and share at least one truth that God has convicted you of in this chapter.
2. Memorize James 3:17.
3. Read James 3:13-18. Answer the following questions. (a) What indicators does James list that prove a man's wisdom is not from God? (b) How does "do not boast and lie against the truth" relate to envy and strife? (c) Why do you think the word *pure* is the first characteristic of godly wisdom mentioned?
4. Choose one chapter from Proverbs and compare and contrast the world's wisdom with God's wisdom. (a) What did you learn about depending on your own wisdom? (b) Why should you depend on God for wisdom?
5. (a) Read the book of Jonah and note the various ways that the wisdom of Jonah did not descend from above. (b) What does this teach you about pursuing godly wisdom?
6. Will wisdom from above always produce peace? Prove your answer biblically.
7. Notice your responses this week in tense situations. (a) Did you display wisdom that is worldly or wisdom that is divine? (b) Did you demonstrate peace making, or did you foster more divisions?
8. How are the truths that you know (wisdom) being made manifest by a godly life? "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Luke 12:48b).
9. As you reflect on this passage regarding wisdom, what do you need help in? What is your prayer request?

1. Read James chapter 4. (a) According to James 4:1-4, what is the source of fighting? (b) How does this attitude manifest a desire to be a friend of the world? (c) Why do you think James calls these people adulterers and adulteresses?
2. Memorize James 4:4.
3. (a) What are the ways in which Oholah (Samaria) and Oholibah (Jerusalem) were committing spiritual adultery in Ezekiel 23? (b) How does God say that He will judge them?
4. (a) In Mark 10:35-45, what was the problem with what James and John were asking of Jesus? (b) Does Jesus grant their request? (c) How does this relate to what James says in 4:1-3? (d) What principle(s) can you glean for your prayer life?
5. Read Matthew 7:7-11. (a) Does this passage mean that God will give me anything I ask Him for? (b) Why or why not? Prove your answer from Scripture.
6. Evaluate your prayer life. (a) Are you asking for things amiss so that you may spend them on your pleasures? In what ways? (b) Or do your prayers include "Thy will be done?" How does this manifest itself? (c) Do you want God to be glorified or do you just want relief from your difficulty? Give examples.
7. (a) How do you demonstrate self-will (wanting things your way) in your own life? (b) What can you do to put that off and demonstrate God's will instead?
8. What are some ways in which you think you may be committing "spiritual adultery" (being a friend of the world)?
9. After meditating on question 6, what changes need to be made in your prayer life? What is your prayer to God?

The Remedy for Worldliness

1. Read Chapter 4. (a) How does the person in verses 1-4 differ from the person in verses 7-10? List as many contrasts as you see.
2. Memorize James 4:6-7.
3. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. (a) What steps do we need to take to draw near to God according to this passage? (b) What do you think these mean? (c) What steps do you take when you draw near to God?
4. Find an example in the Word of someone who resisted God, and note the results. Share principles you can glean for your own life.
5. Find an example of someone who humbled herself or himself before God, and note the results. Share principles you can glean for your life.
6. According to this passage in James, how can one know if she is genuinely repentant?
7. Recall a time when you knew God was resisting you because of your pride. What did you learn about God? About yourself?
8. Notice this week the ways in which you draw near to God and the ways in which you resist Satan.
9. How might you better draw near to God? Write your answer in the form of a prayer request to God.

The Danger of Slander

1. (a) What does James say in 4:11-12? (b) Now, review the book of James and note where else the topic of the tongue is spoken about. (c) Why do you think James mentions this so often? (d) What would “speaking evil” include?

2. Memorize James 4:11-12.

3. Read Matthew 7:1-5 and John 7:24. (a) Is Jesus contradicting Himself? (b) How do you know?

4. Read Numbers 12. (a) What was the sin of Miriam and Aaron? (b) What was the result of their judging Moses? (c) What principles can you glean regarding judging others—especially those in leadership?

5. (a) What is Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 5:9-13? (b) Do you think the churches today are practicing this? (c) What can we do to change that?

6. Observe your speech and thoughts regarding other people this week. Do the things you say and think about others show a righteous judgment or a judgmental spirit?

7. Try as much as you are able to elevate your conversations this week from the mundane to the eternal. What have you learned about your speech?

8. We have now had several instructions regarding the tongue. Is your speech any better, and is it God-honoring? What is your prayer to God?

To Plan or Not to Plan

1. Read over James 4 while asking yourself which form of “worldliness” needs to be removed most from my life?
2. Memorize James 4:13-15.
3. Read Proverb 16:1-9. What do these verses teach you about wise planning?
4. Read Joshua 9. (a) Did the men seek the Lord’s counsel about the Gibeonites? (b) What is the irony in what Joshua says in verse 22? (c) What does this teach you about planning without the Lord, especially when dealing with unbelievers?
5. (a) Give an example of someone in the Word who knew to do right and did not do it. (b) What was their sin? (c) What were the consequences? (d) What does this teach you about walking in the light that you have, being obedient to what you know?
6. Write down your plans for tomorrow. Wait until the next day, and then write down what actually took place. (a) What does this teach you about your plans verses God’s “divine appointments?” (b) Also, how did you react when things did not go as you had planned?
7. Recall a time when you did not consult the Lord for some plan(s) you were making and the result(s).
8. What are you planning this week? Write a prayer request that would include “if the Lord wills” in your planning.

Warning to the Rich

1. Read James Chapter 5:1-6. (a) What are the miseries for which the rich will weep and howl? (b) What is wrong with the way the rich viewed their possessions? (c) Does James condemn them for being rich or for being materialistic?

2. Memorize James 5:1.

3. (a) Review the previous chapters in James and note the other references to the rich and the poor. (b) Why do you think James repeats this so many times?

4. Read Amos 6. (a) What luxuries were the rich enjoying? (b) What warnings does Amos give to those living in pleasure? (c) What lessons are there for you in this passage?

5. (a) According to Leviticus 19:13 and Deuteronomy 24:14-15, what did the Mosaic Law say about wages for the laborers? (b) What did the prophets Jeremiah (Jeremiah 22:13) and Malachi (Malachi 3:5-6) say would happen to those who did not pay their laborers? (c) How do these passages compare to what James is saying in 5:1-6?

6. (a) Make note of how King Ahab lived out James 5:5-6 in 1 Kings 21. (b) What warnings are there for you if you find yourself living for pleasure and worldly things?

7. (a) Are there any material possessions that you are holding on to tightly? (b) Why? (c) What measures will you take so that these miseries will not come upon you in that day?

8. Is there an area in which God is speaking to you regarding finances and your handling of those? What is your prayer?

The Patience of Job

1. (a) Read James 5 making note of all the words that are repeated three or more times. (b) What is the significance of these repetitions?

2. Memorize James 5:8.

3. (a) Read Matthew 26:47–27:50 noting all the ways our Lord was patient with those who were persecuting Him. (b) How does this compare with your persecutions and with your patience?

4. Read Acts 5:17-42. (a) What were the apostles doing that was causing them to be persecuted? (b) What was their response?

5. James mentions in verse 10 that we are to look to the prophets as an example of suffering affliction and patience. Pick one prophet from the Old Testament and note the affliction and note the patience. (Some ideas: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel) What have you learned?

6. How could you use the following verses to help James' readers be patient during the trials they were going through? Romans 5:3-4; 8:25-28; Colossians 1:10-12; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; Hebrews 12:1-2; James 1:3-4.

7. List all the people and/or circumstances that you feel you are being impatient with. Ask the Lord to establish your heart (prop it up) in each one, determine not to murmur about it, and take hope in the examples of those who have gone before us.

8. Has there ever been a time that you suffered persecution for Christ's sake? Did you exhibit patience?

9. Looking back at question 7, how do you think God would have you to respond in this situation? Put it in the form of a prayer request.

Being a Woman of Your Word

1. Read James (perhaps take a chapter a day) noting all the times James uses our speech as a test of our faith.
2. Memorize James 5:12.
3. Read Numbers 30. (a) What does this passage specifically teach women about making vows? (b) What principles can you glean for your own life in regard to making vows?
4. (a) What was Jephthah's vow in Judges 11:29-40? (b) What does this teach you about making rash vows?
5. (a) From any portion of the Scripture, write down at least five promises made by our Heavenly Father. (b) How has He kept these promises to you? (c) Would you say that you keep your promises?
6. (a) Is there a promise that you have made to someone but are failing to keep? (b) In what areas of your life are you being untruthful? (c) Would others say you are a woman of your word?
7. Make a promise this week to someone and fulfill it.
8. After reflecting on question 6, what area is God speaking to you about? Write a prayer asking Him for help!

1. (a) Read James 5, noting all the times we are to pray. (b) Read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17 and 18. How was he earnest in his praying?

2. Memorize James 5:16.

3. Compare 2 Chronicles 16:11-14 with 2 Kings 20:1-11. (a) What does this teach you about seeking the face of God when you are sick? (b) Do you think Asa would have lived had he sought the Lord God? (c) Why or why not?

4. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. (a) What does this passage say about coming to the Lord's Table with sin in our lives? (b) What do the words *weak*, *sickly* and *sleep* mean in verse 30? (c) Do you think we take these verses seriously?

5. David wrote Psalm 32 and 38 when he was suffering because of his sin. Choose one of these Psalms and list all the physical, emotional and spiritual sufferings that David experienced because of sin.

6. Read Luke 11:5-13 and 18:1-8. (a) What parables does Jesus tell to illustrate persistent prayer? (b) What does this teach you about persistence in your own prayer life?

7. (a) Do you know of a time when you were sick because of sin in your life? (b) What did you learn during that time?

8. (a) Do you have someone in your life that holds you accountable for spiritual growth? (b) Do you share real struggles and sins? (c) Are you honest and transparent?

9. (a) Analyze your prayers this week. Ask yourself these questions: Do I fervently pray for the needs of others? Are my prayers earnest or listless and cold? Do I confess my sins? Am I sensitive to any sin that might be hindering my prayers? (b) What is your prayer request?

Conclusion

1. Read the book of James prayerfully asking God what areas still need to be changed in your life.

2. Memorize James 5:19-20.

3. Read Ezekiel 3:16-21 and 33:1-20. (a) What did God tell Ezekiel to do? (b) Why was Ezekiel to do this? (c) Do you think this is a loving thing to do? (d) How does this relate to what James is saying as he concludes his epistle in 5:19-20?

4. We have brought out many times throughout this book that James and the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) are similar. Read both the Epistle of James and the Sermon on the Mount, listing as many similarities as you can find.

5. Read Isaiah 53. (a) What did Christ endure on your behalf? (b) What should your response be to this? (Your answer is not in the book of Isaiah, but inside your heart.)

6. (a) Is there someone in your life to whom you need to be witnessing? Will you? (b) Is there someone who is in sin that you need to admonish and warn? Will you? (c) Is there someone who professes Christ but whose faith you doubt? Will you lovingly warn them?

7. After considering these questions, what is your prayer?