



## WEEK 1: James 1:1-8 (Suffering & Wisdom)

(Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>)

### SUMMARY

The book of James was actually a letter written by James (though some refer to him as “Jacob” due to the Greek spelling of his name), the half-brother of Jesus (see Galatians 1:19), to the Christian Church in approximately A.D. 40-50. In summary, the book of James is a compilation of short teachings all designed to communicate the fact that those who truly love Christ should be living lives that reflect that love in how they speak and act toward others, regardless of how popular you are or how much money you have. In these first eight verses of James’ letter, James states that the attitude we are to have when facing trials and difficulties in life is one of joy. This sounds odd, but the reason James says this is because he knows that our difficulties are actually being used by God to form us into the man or woman that He has called us to be. James encourages his readers, when facing difficulties, to seek God for wisdom, though not with an attitude to live however they want to live. Rather James tells us that if we ask for wisdom from God, with a heart that has truly decided to go wherever God would lead, then we can trust that God hears us.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <<http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <<https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit < <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>>

## DAY 1: Jan 17th

**Text:** There is no text to read for today. Instead, take some time and watch the YouTube video on the book of James listed in the above “Additional Resources.”

1. What did you think about the video on the book of James?
2. According to the video, what are some of the dominant themes that you noticed in James?
3. What are some things you are hoping to get out of this study in the book of James this semester?

## DAY 2: Jan 18th

**Text:** Read James 1:1-8

1. What questions come to your mind reading James 1:1-8?

## DAY 3: Jan 19th

**Text:** Read James 1:1-4

1. How does James say you are supposed to respond whenever you experience difficult things in life?
2. Why does James say that you should respond this way?
3. What is an example of something in life that is difficult to do at first (maybe even painful), but ultimately helps us to grow and mature?

## DAY 4: Jan 20th

**Text:** Read James 1:5-8

1. What is the definition of “wisdom?”
2. What does James say we should do if we want to have wisdom?

## DAY 5: Jan 21st

**Text:** Read James 1:5-8

1. Look at v. 8. What sort of “man” does James say that we should not be like whenever we ask God for wisdom?

\*\*\*The word “double-minded” refers to having a “double purpose of mind.” This type of person may ask God to give him/her wisdom, but they are not necessarily intending to do what wisdom would tell them to do.

2. Have you ever asked God for direction in something, but deep down you were not totally committed to whatever God might want you to do?
3. How does James describe this type of person in v. 6?

\*\*\*This person is described as “a wave of the sea” because their mind is not fixed firmly on God’s direction, but willing to adjust and veer away from God if they hear someone else’s opinion that sounds better to them. They go back and forth between wanting to follow God and not wanting to follow God.

## DAY 6: Jan 22nd

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 1:1-8 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 2: James 1:9-18 (Wealth, Poverty, & Temptation)

(Jan 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>)

### SUMMARY

James 1:9-18 can be broken up into two main sections: (1) A short teaching on how the rich and the poor ought to view themselves (1:9-11) and (2) How the believer is to understand temptation (1:12-18). James encourages his readership, whether wealthy or poor, to view their material possessions (or lack thereof) in light of eternity.

Subsequently, James discusses how temptation in our lives ultimately comes from within us. The Christian who desires to stand firm in the midst of temptation must ultimately fix his/her eyes on God: The Giver of every good thing.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Jan 24th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 1:1-8?

## DAY 2: Jan 25th

**Text:** Read James 1:9

1. James tells this financially poor Christian to “boast in his exaltation.” In the Greek, that word “boast” means “to take pride in,” and the word “exaltation” means “high status” or “high position.” What “high status” do you think James is referring to?
2. What’s one example of how someone could take pride in this “high status” that James is talking about?

## DAY 3: Jan 26th

**Text:** Read James 1:9-11

1. James now shifts his focus from the financially poor Christian to the wealthy \*Christian. James states that the “rich” is to boast in his “humiliation.” What “humiliation” do you think James is referring to here? (See pg. 15 in the commentary for some thoughts) Are there any verses to support your view?
2. What reason does James give in v. 11 for why the poor and the rich are to act the way that James is calling them to act? What is James saying about the worth of material possessions?
3. We, here in the United States, are among the richest people in the world (whether we feel like it or not). What are some ways we, as Christians, can remind ourselves to see wealth the way that James calls us to see it?

\*Not all Bible scholars agree that James is talking about a wealthy Christian here. Some take the view that James is talking about a non-Christian who boasts in his/her wealth. However, given some of the grammatical and contextual arguments, I feel as though the evidence sides with the interpretation that both individuals James is addressing here are Christians.

## DAY 4: Jan 27th

**Text:** Read James 1:12

1. What is James encouraging his readers to do in v. 12?

2. Think about a time when you were tempted to do something you knew you shouldn't. Was it hard to resist? Why or why not?

### DAY 5: Jan 28th

**Text:** Read James 1:12-18

1. Where does James say that temptation comes from?
2. James moves straight on from talking about desires (vv. 13-15) to God (vv. 16-18), as the Giver of every perfect gift. By ordering his words this way, what might James be saying about how we are to fight against temptation?
3. How might thinking about God, as the Giver of every perfect thing, help you to resist temptation next time you encounter it?

### DAY 6: Jan 29th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 1:9-18 this week to your own life?



**WEEK 3: James 1:19-27**  
***(Hearing & Doing)***

(Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Feb 5<sup>th</sup>)

**SUMMARY**

James 1:19-27 moves to draw the connection between fixing our eyes on God (as the perfect Giver) and how that ought to play itself out in our speech and decision-making. James' argument is that true freedom in Christ is found in the life of an individual who shows what he/she has believed by how he/she lives. This is true religion. All others are only fooling themselves.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

**DAY 1: Jan 31st**

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 1:9-18?

## DAY 2: Feb 1st

**Text:** Read James 1:19-21

1. Here James moves into a section talking about 'human anger.' What clues does v. 21 give us on how James would define "human anger?"
2. Can you think of a time when you felt anger that James would call "human anger?"

## DAY 3: Feb 2nd

**Text:** Read James 1:22

1. What does James say you are doing if you don't seek to follow what God's Word says?
2. What do you think James means when he says, "deceiving yourselves" in v. 22? Are there any verses to support your view?

## DAY 4: Feb 3rd

**Text:** Read James 1:23-25

1. In James 1:23-24, James gives an illustration of what it's like when a person hears God's Word, but then doesn't try to follow it at all. What might this illustration be telling you about what James means when he says "deceiving yourselves" in v. 22?
2. In v. 25, James uses the word "perseveres" to describe the opposite of what he is describing in vv. 22-24. Therefore, is James saying that only perfect Christians are truly Christians?

\*\*\*This is so important to not miss. What James is encouraging his audience to do is to hear God's Word and PERSEVERE in following it. Will they make mistakes from time to time? Sure...but *perseverance*, not perfection, is the mark of a true Christian.

## DAY 5: Feb 4th

**Text:** Read James 1:26-27

1. What does James connect someone's religion to in v. 26?
2. What two things make up James' definition of "religion" in v. 27?
3. Looking at v. 27, do you feel like there is an area of "religion" that you are stronger in? Weaker in?

## DAY 6: Feb 5th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 1:19-27 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 4: James 2:1-13 (Favoritism)

(Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – Feb 12<sup>th</sup>)

### SUMMARY

James 2:1-13 moves into a section where James discusses the idea of showing favoritism to others and how it is the opposite of trusting in Jesus. The reason for this is because by being nicer to people who have more money or who are more popular, you are doing the exact opposite of what God did for you – Sending Jesus to die for you when you were His enemy. People who show favoritism live like they don't know Jesus.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Feb 7th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 1:19-27?

### DAY 2: Feb 8th

**Text:** Read James 2:1-3

1. What does James say that people who show favoritism do not have? (Hint: What does the ESV translation say that believers are to "hold?")

2. What illustration does James give for showing “partiality” (ESV)?
3. Can you think of what it might look like to show “partiality” in your Middle School or High School?

### DAY 3: Feb 9th

**Text:** Read James 2:1-4

1. In v. 4, what word does James use to describe the “thoughts” of those who make “distinctions” (ESV)?
2. Do you think it’s a little extreme for James to use this word? Why or why not?
3. What do you think it means to show “distinctions?”
4. How could we be tempted to do this in our lives with students at school?

### DAY 4: Feb 10th

**Text:** Read James 2:5-7

1. In v. 5, what reason does James give for why we, as followers of Jesus, shouldn’t show favoritism to popular or wealthier students in our lives?

\*\*\* In vv. 6-7, James is saying to his audience how ridiculous it is that they are showing favoritism to the very people who get them in trouble with the government and say terrible things about God.

2. Imagine for a second that you were driving down the road and someone famous was standing by the side of the road waiving for someone to pull over and help them. Do you think you would be more likely to pull over for them or for someone who was homeless?
3. In your opinion, why do you think we tend to treat people who are famous, rich, or attractive better than we do the poor and the homeless?
4. Do you think that we’re guilty of the same thing James’ readers were in this letter? Why or why not?

## DAY 5: Feb 11th

**Text:** Read James 2:8-13

1. What “law” does James say you are breaking if you show partiality?
2. What “law” does James say you are under in v. 12?

\*\*\*The phrase “law of liberty” is a phrase used to denote the calling that followers of Jesus have to follow Him after being liberated from sin and filled with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in v. 13, James is not saying that we are saved only when we show mercy to others, but rather he is saying that it’s those who are truly saved who will show mercy to others. This theme will continue throughout the book of James and so it’s important to keep in mind that James’ mindset is never that we are saved by our works, but rather that true faith *shows* itself in works.

## DAY 6: Feb 12th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 2:1-13 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 5: James 2:14-26 (Faith & Works)

(Feb 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>)

### SUMMARY

James 2:14-26 dives headfirst into the overarching point that James makes throughout his entire letter: We, as followers of Jesus, are saved by grace through faith, not by works; but true faith will always show itself to be “alive” *by* works. Some Christians throughout history (Martin Luther being one) did not like James’ letter because he felt as though James was contradicting Paul (Eph 2:8-9) and preaching a gospel of works-based righteousness. Luther was wrong though to understand James this way. James simply makes the same point that Paul makes in Romans 6:1-2, 15. Faith that does not show itself in actions is a non-existent faith (i.e. “dead”).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Feb 14th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 2:1-13?

## DAY 2: Feb 15th

**Text:** Read James 2:14-26

1. What questions come to your mind as you read these verses in James?
2. What does James call his audience in v. 14? Is James talking to believers or unbelievers?

## DAY 3: Feb 16th

**Text:** Read James 2:14-17

1. According to v. 14, what can 'faith without works' not do for someone?
2. Looking at vv. 15-16, what example does James give of "works?"
3. In v. 17, what word does James use to describe "faith without works?"
4. What pictures come to your mind when you hear the word "dead?"

## DAY 4: Feb 17th

**Text:** Read James 2:18-19

1. Here James is talking about people who think following Jesus is just about 'knowing facts about God.'
2. According to v. 18, how is faith "shown?"
3. Looking at James' words in v. 19, how important is it for followers of Jesus to understand the relationship between 'faith' and 'works?'

## DAY 5: Feb 18th

**Text:** Read James 2:20-26

1. According to v. 24, how is a person "justified?"

\*\*\*The word "justified" in the Greek here carries with it the idea of being in a "right relationship" with someone else. What James is saying here is that to be in a right relationship with God means that you had a faith that shows itself 'alive' by how you live.

2. Looking at v. 26, what word is used to describe “faith apart from works?”
3. When you think about “works,” what sorts of things do you picture in your mind? What sorts of things do you think would come to James’ mind? (support your thoughts with specific verses)

### DAY 6: Feb 19th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 2:14-26 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 6: James 3:1-12 (*The Power of Words*)

(Feb 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>)

### SUMMARY

James 3:1-12 sees the introduction of a new topic: Our words. Compared to the bit in a horse's mouth or the rudder of a ship, our tongue, though small in size, has the ability to bless our lives or burn it to the ground. As followers of Jesus, our speech should always be a sign of our relationship with Jesus; and while this is not an easy thing to do, James closes this section by alluding to the fact that the key to it all resides in the heart – another pointer to the fact that true faith shows itself in works.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Feb 21st

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 2:14-26?

## DAY 2: Feb 22nd

**Text:** Read James 3:1-2

1. According to v. 1, why does James say that not many people should try to be teachers of God's Word?
2. According to v. 2, what kind of a man (or woman) never says the wrong thing?
3. Talk about a time when you got into trouble simply because of something that you said.

## DAY 3: Feb 23rd

**Text:** Read James 3:3-5

1. What two things does James compare the human tongue to? What do these two things have in common with the tongue?
2. Can you think of a time when you heard someone famous completely destroy their careers simply because of something they said?
3. In your opinion, why do you think it is so hard to never say the wrong thing?

## DAY 4: Feb 24th

**Text:** Read James 3:6-10

1. What two things does James say people will do in v. 9?
2. Maybe you've never done this, but have you ever gotten into an argument with your parents on a Sunday morning before Church, and then came and sang songs to God in worship?

## DAY 5: Feb 25th

**Text:** Read James 3:11-12

1. Summarize, in your own words, what James is saying in these two verses.
2. What do you think James is saying in these two verses about where hurtful speech comes from?

\*\*\*What's interesting about these last two verses is that James gives two 'source' pictures talking about (for example) how we don't expect a fig tree to produce anything other than figs; and the reason James brings this up is because our speech is ultimately just a reflection of our hearts.

3. How do these last two illustrations re-emphasize James' point about how true faith will show itself to be 'alive' by its works?

## DAY 6: Feb 26th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 3:1-12 this week to your own life?



**WEEK 7: James 3:13-18**  
*(God's Wisdom v. The World's Wisdom)*

(Feb 28th – Mar 5<sup>th</sup>)

**SUMMARY**

In James 3:13-18, James again brings up the topic of wisdom and contrasts the difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom. The latter, he argues, is characterized by jealousy and selfishness, and ultimately finding its root in the demonic. The former, he states, is ultimately characterized by peace. The book of James is oftentimes referred to as the 'Proverbs of the New Testament' due to its literary design and emphasis on wisdom.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

**DAY 1: Feb 28th**

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 3:1-12?

## DAY 2: Mar 1st

**Text:** Read James 3:13-16

1. According to James in v. 13, what marks a 'truly wise' person?
2. According v. 14, what is the opposite of 'true wisdom'?
3. In your opinion, why do you think James chose to use the traits "jealousy" and "selfish ambition" to describe 'worldly wisdom?' (HINT: See Proverbs 1:7)

## DAY 3: Mar 2nd

**Text:** Read James 3:13-16

1. In v. 15, how does James describe 'worldly wisdom' characterized by jealousy and selfishness?
2. Do you think the word "demonic" is a little extreme? Why or why not?

## DAY 4: Mar 3rd

**Text:** Read James 3:13-16

1. Looking at v. 16, what does "jealousy" and "selfish ambition" lead to?
2. Have you ever met someone who was incredibly selfish? Did they tend to create peace or disorder?
3. Have you ever caught yourself acting selfishly? Did it create an environment of peace or disorder?

## DAY 5: Mar 4th

**Text:** Read James 3:17-18

1. What sorts of ways can you "make peace" (v. 18) in the lives of those around you?

## DAY 6: Mar 5th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 3:13-18 this week to your own life?



**WEEK 8: James 4:1-10**  
***(Friendship with the World)***

(Mar 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)

**SUMMARY**

In James 4:1-10, James continues on with the theme of ‘worldly wisdom’ (James 3:13-18), by elaborating on the fruit of worldly wisdom: A lack of peace. He reaches the foundational issue in v. 6 by stating that ultimately the problem is pride – refusing to humble yourself before God. This message is not without hope though because God is faithful to give grace to anyone who would turn from their arrogance and humble themselves before Him. He will cleanse them and make them clean. This is James’ exhortation to his audience.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

**DAY 1: Mar 7th**

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 3:13-18?

## DAY 2: Mar 8th

**Text:** Read James 4:1-2

1. According to James here, what causes fights among people?
2. Do you agree with what James is saying? Why or why not?

## DAY 3: Mar 9th

**Text:** Read James 4:1-3

1. Why does James say that his audience is not getting from God what they are asking Him for?
2. In your own words, how do you think James would say that we can 'ask for something wrongly?'
3. Do you think this is still something we tend to do at times? Give an example.

## DAY 4: Mar 10th

**Text:** Read James 4:4-6

1. Does James think that it's possible for someone to chase after what's popular in this world and what's popular with God at the same time?
2. How would you describe "being a friend of the world?" What would that look like? (use verses here in James to support your answer)
3. How do you think you can avoid becoming a friend of the world?

## DAY 5: Mar 11th

**Text:** Read James 4:7-10

1. If you have turned away from God and started pursuing things the world tells you to pursue, are you without hope now? Why?
2. According to v. 10, what do we need to do if we find ourselves prioritizing what the world says is important? What do you think this looks like?

## DAY 6: Mar 12th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 4:1-10 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 9: James 4:11-12 (*Judging Others*)

(Mar 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>)

### **SUMMARY**

In James 4:11-12, James returns to the topic of speech, and specifically using our words to slander or speak harmfully against other believers. He states that if someone is doing this, then they are, by their actions, saying that they don't see God's laws worth following. They therefore put themselves in the place of God. James closes this section by declaring that no one can declare who is saved and who is unsaved determinately. That is God's job alone.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### **DAY 1: Mar 14th**

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 4:1-10?

## DAY 2: Mar 15th

**Text:** Read James 4:11

1. In v. 11, James brings up the idea of speaking to other believers in a degrading or mean way. Do you think this is still a problem today? What examples can you think of?
2. What does James say someone who “speaks evil against a brother or judges his brother” is actually doing?
3. What “law” do you think James is talking about? (HINT: Look at James 1:25 and James 2:8 in order to help form your opinion)

## DAY 3: Mar 16th

**Text:** Read James 4:11

1. What does James say you are if you are not a “doer of the law”?
2. What thoughts come to mind when you hear the word “judging?”
3. What do you think James means when he says that you “judge the law?”

\*\*\*The Greek word we translate as “judge” means “to find fault with.” What James is saying here is that if someone is not a “doer of the law” it is because they have looked at God’s Word and determined that there is a problem with it. Therefore, they are not going to try to live how God calls them to live.

## DAY 4: Mar 17th

**Text:** Read James 4:11-12

1. What does it typically mean when we hear that someone in our culture is “judging” someone else?
2. Read v. 12 and then read 1 Corinthians 5:12-13. What’s the difference between the kind of “judging” that Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 5:12 and the kind of “judging” that James is talking about in v. 12 here? (Use verses to support your answer.)

## DAY 5: Mar 18th

**Text:** Read James 4:11-12

1. According to v. 12, who is the “one lawgiver and judge?” What is He able to do?
2. Looking at v. 12, what do you believe that James is saying when he talks about not “judging” another believer?

\*\*\*The difference between what James is talking about with “judging” and what Paul is talking about with “judging” (1 Corinthians 5:12-13) is that James is talking about judging people’s salvation. Paul is talking about lovingly correcting and rebuking believers when they are living contrary to how God calls them to live. As followers of Jesus, we never have the right to say who goes to Heaven and who goes to Hell. That is God’s decision alone. However, we *are* called to help other believers follow Jesus more faithfully and talk to them when we see them making decisions that are the opposite of how Jesus would call them to live.

3. How might you go about talking to a friend of yours (who says he/she is a follower of Jesus) when you see him/her doing things that Jesus has told His followers not to do?
4. Have you ever had to have a conversation like this with another believer? How did it go?

## DAY 6: Mar 19th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 4:11-12 this week to your own life?



**WEEK 10: James 4:13-17**  
***(The Danger in Self-Confidence)***

(Mar 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>)

**SUMMARY**

In James 4:13-17, James appears to direct his speech toward those who are, at least somewhat, wealthy; and attempt to help them see their own arrogance. In this section, he discusses their lack of regard for God's sovereign control over all things. It is God who determines what will happen and what will not happen, and wisdom is found in living our lives under a constant awareness of that. Any other sort of attitude is, in James' words, evil. James then alludes to the fact that his audience is aware of this fact and simply refusing to live this way.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

**DAY 1: Mar 21st**

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 4:11-12?

## DAY 2: Mar 22nd

**Text:** Read James 4:13-14

1. In your own words, what does it sound like James is getting upset about in these verses?
2. Have you ever met someone who believed they could do whatever they wanted whenever they wanted to do it? What was your impression of this person?

## DAY 3: Mar 23rd

**Text:** Read James 4:13-15

1. Is James saying that it's wrong to desire to do well in business and make money? (HINT: What does Paul say in 1 Timothy 6:17-19?)
2. In your own words, what is James wanting Christians to do here?

## DAY 4: Mar 24th

**Text:** Read James 4:13-16

1. In Middle School and High School, we make a lot of plans! In your opinion, how might the way a Christian makes plans look different than how a non-Christian makes plans?
2. In v. 16, what does James say the difference is?
3. What would it look like to make plans without "boasting in your arrogance?"

## DAY 5: Mar 25th

**Text:** Read James 4:17

1. What does James say is "sin" here?
2. Oftentimes, we think about "sinning" as things we DO...Rarely do we think about "sinning" as things we DON'T DO. James makes a very convicting statement here in saying that if we know what the right thing to do is, but don't do it, then we're sinning against God. Talk about a time in which you knew you should do something but didn't do it.

\*\*\*Again, it's very easy to feel shame when reading James' letter, but keep in mind that shame is not the goal of James' letter. Joy is the goal...and as a caring pastor, James comes along and says to us, 'There are things that you're doing and things you're not doing that are keeping you from enjoying your relationship with God.' This is James' goal for us.

## DAY 6: Mar 26th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 4:13-17 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 11: James 5:1-6 (*The Pursuit of Materialism*)

(Mar 28th – Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### SUMMARY

James 5:1-6 is in fact closely related to James 4:13-17. Both passages are addressing individuals that appear to be placing an unhealthy emphasis on wealth and material prosperity in life. Whether or not James is speaking to believers or unbelievers is uncertain. However, if James is indeed speaking to unbelievers, it does not mean that the message of this paragraph is irrelevant. James speaks out against the mindset that accumulating wealth and material possessions is the highest goal in life, regardless of how someone goes about achieving it, and living in an American culture, where this mindset is admired, we must be quick to check our own hearts.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Mar 28th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 4:13-17?

## DAY 2: Mar 29th

**Text:** Read James 5:1

1. Who is James talking to in this verse?
2. Why does James tell these people to “weep and howl?”
3. Would you consider yourself “rich?” Why or why not?

## DAY 3: Mar 30th

**Text:** Read James 5:1-3

1. What does James say will happen to riches and possessions in the future?

\*\*\* James employs an interesting tactic here. He encourages his readers to think ahead into the future and think about what will eventually happen to all of the material wealth that they find themselves becoming so consumed by. James says that eventually it will all disappear. The same example can be made for us here in 2019. It can become an endless race trying to own the nicest or newest thing, but eventually even the newest thing becomes ‘last year’s model.’ So, when battling the temptation to just own more newer or nicer things, James encourages us to remember: Eventually everything ‘new’ ends up at either a garage sale or in a dumpster.

2. Have you ever been really excited to get something new, only to get bored with it a few months later?
3. As Christians, Jesus calls us to not become consumed with possessions. How can we resist the temptation to chase after the newest or nicest material possession?

## DAY 4: Mar 31st

**Text:** Read James 5:4-6

1. What else does James mention that these rich people have done?
2. Who does it say the “cries of the harvesters” have reached?

\*\*\* James refers to God here as “the Lord of hosts.” In the Greek, this phrase can literally be translated as “Lord of the Armies.” James is giving a warning that to abuse or take advantage of others for material gain is seen directly by a God who commands Armies waiting to bring down His wrath.

## DAY 5: Apr 1st

**Text:** Read James 5:4-6

1. Read v. 5. What does James accuse these people of doing?
2. If someone asked you, "How much is too much for a Christian to own in America?" What would you say? Why? (Try to support your answer with Scripture verses)

## DAY 6: Apr 2nd

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 5:1-6 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 12: James 5:7-12 (Patience)

(Apr 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>)

### SUMMARY

In James 5:7-12, we see James unarguable return to addressing fellow believers in Jesus, and inform them that the attitude, which is to mark a Christian who is suffering, is one of patience and endurance. Christians are to fix their eyes on the fact that one day Jesus will come back and make every 'wrong' right again. James concludes this section with an exhortation that Christians should be careful to always keep their word in what they say they will do.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on "James." As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Apr 4th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 5:1-6?

### DAY 2: Apr 5th

**Text:** Read James 5:7-8

1. Who is James talking to here?

2. What two things does James tell these people to do?

\*\*\*There are 2 Greek commands in v. 8 (“be patient” and “establish” (ESV)). The second one (“establish”) can also be translated as “strengthen” or “commit.”

3. If you had to explain the difference between ‘being patient’ and ‘committing’ to someone else, how would you do it?

\*\*\*James’ overarching message here is all about how a Christian should respond to difficulty in life (specifically poverty and persecution in James’ context): The follower of Jesus is called to be patience in the midst of difficulty and fully set his/her trust on God’s timing to return and make every ‘wrong’ right again.

### DAY 3: Apr 6th

**Text:** Read James 5:9

1. What does James command followers of Jesus not to do?
2. Give an example of how you could apply this command in your own life?
3. What does James say you are in danger of if you take a critical attitude toward another Christian?
4. What thoughts or questions come to mind when you read here that even the actions of Christians will be judged by God?

### DAY 4: Apr 7th

**Text:** Read James 5:10-11

1. Does it seem as though James believes that suffering and difficulty is normal or abnormal for the follower of Jesus to experience?
2. What does James want his readers to notice about the lives of the prophets and Job?
3. What does James want his readers to notice about God?

\*\*\*Notice James’ point in these verses: As we endure suffering or mistreatment in this life, we must remember that suffering is not the end of the story. Jesus will return one day and set everything right.

## DAY 5: Apr 8th

**Text:** Read James 5:12

1. What is it that James is telling his readers not to do?

\*\*\*When James talks about not “swearing,” he’s not talking about using profane language. He’s talking about the idea of using God’s name to increase the reliability of what someone is saying. A similar example for us could be how someone in today’s culture might say something like, “I swear on my children that I will keep my word.”

2. What does James tell his readers to do instead of ‘swearing an oath?’

\*\*\*This verse can be somewhat confusing, and not all commentators agree on how exactly to interpret it, but one thing seems very clear in this verse: James is exhorting his readers to always keep their word. This also fits well with James’ emphasis throughout his letter on how we are to use our speech.

3. Have you ever found it difficult to keep a promise or commitment with someone (or some organization) after you made it? What made it so difficult?

## DAY 6: Apr 9th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 5:7-12 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 13: James 5:13-18 (*The Power of Prayer*)

(Apr 11<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>)

### **SUMMARY**

In James 5:13-18, James camps out on the importance and power of prayer. Followers of Jesus are called to be men and women of prayer because prayer fixes itself, not on what we can do ourselves, but on what God can do. When men and women rely upon God and seek His face in prayer, there is power that is unstoppable.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Apr 11th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 5:7-12?

## DAY 2: Apr 12th

**Text:** Read James 5:13-14

1. According to James, in addition to being patience and enduring when difficulties come into your life, what else should the Christian do in difficult times? How should the Christian respond when times are not difficult?
2. Take a few minutes and honestly think about your prayer life. When life is hard, is your first response to God in prayer about it? When life is going great, is your first response to thank God for it?

\*\*\*I know for myself, my prayer life is not where I think James would want it, especially when life is going well. For me, it's a little easier to go to God when life is hard, but when life is going well, I rarely remember that it's God who is responsible for every good and perfect thing that happens in my life.

3. How do you think we can work to have our prayer lives more in line with how James calls us to live?

## DAY 3: Apr 13th

**Text:** Read James 5:15

1. Have you ever had a time when you prayed for someone to get better, but it ultimately didn't happen? What did you think about God after that?

\*\*\*One important note to understand here is this: James is not saying that if you prayed for someone to get better, and they didn't, then it's your fault for not having enough faith. This is not what James is saying here.

2. This can be an incredibly difficult verse to wrestle through since all of us have probably, at one time or another, prayed for someone to get better, but we didn't see it happen. This is how one Bible commentator summarizes what James is saying here:

*When we pray for someone to get better, being 100% confident that God hears us and will make them better, God does heal them; but God only gives us this level of confidence (since faith is a gift from Him – it's not your own doing) when it is in His will to heal that person.*

3. What questions come to your mind after reading that statement?

## DAY 4: Apr 14th

**Text:** Read James 5:16

1. What two things does James say are necessary for physical illness to be healed in the community of believers?
2. Does James seem to assume that sinning and physical health can be connected to each other? (see 1 Corinthians 11:29-30)
3. Whose responsibility does James say that it is for Christians to be prayed over?
4. How can you make a habit of praying for one another throughout the week?

## DAY 5: Apr 15th

**Text:** Read James 5:17-18

1. Look back over the story of Elijah that James is referring to here (1 Kings 17-18).
2. What does James want you to be reminded of in these two verses?

## DAY 6: Apr 16th

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 5:13-18 this week to your own life?



## WEEK 14: James 5:19-20 (Evangelism)

(Apr 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>)

### SUMMARY

In James 5:19-20, James concludes his letter with a call to share the Gospel and lead others toward salvation in Jesus.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For a free PDF Bible Commentary on the Book of James, go to <http://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/> and click on “James.” As you work through this Bible Study, feel free to look here for more information on any verses that you find confusing.
- Another free commentary you can check out (for any book of the Bible) is located at <https://net.bible.org/#!/bible/James+1>
- For a helpful overarching look at the book of James, visit <https://youtu.be/qn-hLHWwRYY>

### DAY 1: Apr 18th

**Text:** There is no reading for this day.

1. How have you tried to apply what you learned and talked about last week studying James 5:13-18?

### DAY 2: Apr 19th

**Text:** Read James 5:19-20

1. Looking at these two verses, what do you think James means by saying “the truth?” Why do you think that?

### DAY 3: Apr 20th

**Text:** Read James 5:19-20

1. What do you think of when you hear James talk about someone 'wandering from the truth?' Do you think this person is a believer or unbeliever? What makes you think that? (support your opinion with a verse or set of verses)

### DAY 4: Apr 21st

**Text:** Read James 5:19-20

1. In v. 19, what does James encourage Christians to do whenever they see someone in the community wandering away from Jesus?
2. In v. 20, what does James say will happen if the 'wanderer' is turned away from his/her sin?

\*\*\*While there is some debate, it is likely that the two things mentioned in v. 20 ("saving his soul" and "covering a multitude of sins") both refer to the individual who was wandering away.

### DAY 5: Apr 22nd

**Text:** Read James 5:19-20

1. James closes out his letter by encouraging his fellow believers to evangelize and work to lead others to salvation in Jesus. How have you sought to do this in your own life?
2. If you haven't ever tried to share the Gospel with someone, what do you think is the reason for that? (i.e. I'm nervous about how someone would respond. I don't know how. I don't know anyone who is not a Christian. Etc.)
3. How can our Student Ministry better help you to learn how to share your faith with others who don't know Jesus?

### DAY 6: Apr 23rd

**Text:** Skim back over some of your answers from this past week.

1. How might you be able to apply what you read in James 5:19-20 this week to your own life?