

THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

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Recommendation

It is “suggested” that this Bible Study be done with a Small Group or House Church, over the course of 8 weeks.

- ✓ Week 1: “Make A Friend” Ice Breaker Game (See James Cover / Ice Breaker Game), and James Intro / Part of chapter one.
- ✓ Week 2: Review and finish chapter one (learn it well).
- ✓ Week 3-6: Chapter 2-6.
- ✓ Week 7: Potluck Party + Plus Invite to Next Study

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JAMES

Chapter 1 Bible Study

Background on James

Author: James, the son of Joseph and Mary, and half-brother to Jesus, also known as “James the Just” (and not James the Apostle). James was known to be the leader of the Jerusalem Church. **Note:** James and Jesus had other brothers (Joseph, Simon, and Jude-Author of Jude) and sisters too – Matt 13:55-56 (sisters are unnamed). James was stoned to death in A.D. 62.

Date Written: About A.D. 47-49. **Note:** This book was written after the stoning of Stephen (A.D. 35), which is when the persecution began where believers scattered.

Audience: Jewish believers scattered abroad (because of the persecution). **Note:** When persecution is little, believers can stay together, when persecution increases believers have to scatter, which is often the best way to spread the Gospel.

Setting: James probably wrote this epistle in Jerusalem. **Note:** Jerusalem is and was the home town of Christianity. It’s the capital of Israel, it’s where the Church started, it’s where Jesus was crucified, it’s where He arose and ascended into heaven. It’s where the Apostles ministered, it’s where the Holy Spirit filled the first believers, and it’s where the Church started having explosive growth.

Something to think about: Could you imagine what it was like to be “The brother of Jesus”? Your older brother is a guy who makes no mistakes, and is literally the perfect person, in “word” and in “deed”. **Note:** At first James did not believe that his brother was the Messiah (**John 5:** For even His brothers did not believe Him). But later James becomes one of the main leaders in the Church. Scholars believe that James must have had a change of heart after Jesus died, because James is listed as one of the people that Jesus appears to, after his death, in A.D. 30 or 33.

Purpose for writing James: To teach believers how to put their “Faith into Action”!

James 1

Greetings from James

¹This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad.

Greetings!

Faith and Endurance

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

1. Who wrote the book of James, and who did he write it to? (V1) _____

NOTE: *Even though New Testament writings listed specific audiences directly, God wrote the Bible, through His people, and “to His People”. So the book of James and other Biblical writings are written to all people in all times (present and future).*

2. What attitude did James say that we should have, when troubles in life come our way? (V2) _____

3. When troubles in life come our way, our faith is tested. What two benefits come from having our faith in God tested? (V3,4) _____

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

4. If you need wisdom in life, who should you ask? (V5) _____

5. When you ask God for wisdom, as you are dealing with troubles in life, who alone should you put your faith in? (V6) _____

6. James talked about people who put their faith in God **AND** in something else. What was the other thing that people put their faith in? (V8) _____

Note: *When the bible refers to the “world”, it means “the morally corrupt system in place in this world that is opposed to God, and ruled by Satan”. The world was put in three categories by John the Apostle (through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) ...*

1) The lust (strong desire) for physical pleasure. This refers mostly to the lust for sex apart from marriage, but also refers to any sort of selfish or greedy cravings simply to satisfy one’s physical desires. **2) The lust for things we see.** The NLT Study

*Bible calls this “bowing to the god of materialism”. This area of the world has to do with the sins of “craving and accumulating” possessions. **3) Pride in our achievements and possessions.** This refers to the inward (meaning in the heart) and the outward boasting based upon one’s status or the possessions they own.*

7. When a person divides his/her loyalty between God, and the desires of the world, what should they expect to get from God? (V6-8) _____

⁹ Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. ¹⁰ And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. ¹¹ The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

8. One difference between a poor person and a rich person is that a poor person has to trust God to meet their needs, while a rich person just buys what they need. What did James compare a rich person to? (V10) _____

9. In what way did James say the rich are like a flower? (V11) _____

¹² God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

10. What two benefits do we receive as a result of “enduring testing and temptation”, as we go through life? (V12) _____

11. Does God ever tempt us to do the wrong thing? (V13) _____

12. Where does temptation come from? (V14) _____

13. What happens if we give in to temptation, instead of turning to God for help? (V15) _____

¹⁶ So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to

us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

14. Where does everything good come from? (V17) _____
15. Does God ever change, like people do? (V17) _____
16. Out of all that God created, what is His most prized possession? (V18) _____

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

17. How does the Bible say we should act toward others? (3 things from V19)

18. Being angry and allowing ourselves to give into the temptation to sin is something that God wants us to get rid of. What else did God say to get rid of? (V21) _____

19. What has the power to save our souls, and who can share it? (V21) _____
- _____

²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. ²³ For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. ²⁴ You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ²⁵ But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

20. In James 1:22 you will find one of the most important principles in scripture. What is it? (V22) _____

21. What will happen if you do what the Bible says **AND** don't forget what is written in it? (V25) _____

²⁶ If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

22. How valuable is a person's religion, if they can't even control their tongue?
(V26) _____

23. What two characteristics are found in religion that is pure and genuine? (V27)

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **first** part of the Lord's Prayer (*Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy*), honor God by telling Him how wonderful He is ... God You Are wonderful, loving, forgiving, _____ (Praise Him)

Answer Key

1. James was written by James, and he wrote it to the 12 tribes of Israel.
2. We should have joy.
3. Our endurance grows, and when our endurance grows we will be perfect and complete.
4. You should ask God for wisdom.
5. You should put your faith in God alone.
6. The World.
7. Nothing.
8. A flower in the field.
9. They will both eventually fade away.
10. God blesses us, and we will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love Him.
11. No.
12. From our own evil desires, which entice us and drag us away.
13. Evil desires give birth to sinful actions, and then sin grows and gives birth to death.
14. God our Father.
15. No, God never changes.
16. Us, People.
17. We should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.
18. Get rid of all filth and evil in your lives.
19. God's Word has the power to save our soul, and we can share it with others.
20. Don't just listen to the Bible, do what it says.
21. God will bless you.
22. Their religion is useless.
23. Caring for orphans and widows in their distress, and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

JAMES

Chapter 2 Bible Study

A Warning against Prejudice

¹ My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

² For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. ³ If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”— well, ⁴ doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

⁵ Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn’t God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren’t they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you dishonor the poor! Isn’t it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? ⁷ Aren’t they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

⁸ Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹ But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

¹⁰ For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God’s laws. ¹¹ For the same God who said, “You must not commit adultery,” also said, “You must not murder.” So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.

¹² So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. ¹³ There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

1. In the book of James (or Epistle), James was challenging what kind of behavior? (V1) _____

2. Who did James compare, when talking about the sin of favoritism? (V3) _____

3. What is the root cause of this kind of discrimination? (V4) _____

4. James was saying that rich people rely on their money. What do the poor people tend to rely on more? (V5) _____

5. What is the Royal Law found in Scripture? (V8) _____

6. If you favor certain people over others, what are you guilty of? (V9) _____

7. If a person obeys the whole law, but favors some people over others, what are they guilty of? (V10) _____

8. If you live by the Law, instead of living by Faith in Jesus Christ, what will you be judged by? (V12) _____

Faith without Good Deeds Is Dead

¹⁴What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

¹⁷So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

¹⁸Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

¹⁹You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. ²⁰How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

²¹Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. ²³And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. ²⁴So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.

²⁵Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. ²⁶Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

9. If you don't show mercy to other people, how much mercy will God show you? (V13) _____

10. In James chapter 2, the Bible talks about having a faith in Jesus that is evident by good deeds. What example was given? (V15-16) _____

11. What good is it to have a faith in Jesus that doesn't cause you to do something to help, when you see someone in need? (V17) _____

12. What is shown in the life of a person who has genuine faith in Jesus Christ? (V18) _____

13. James gives an example of how faith in God without works is dead, who did he give as an example? (V19) _____

14. How was Abraham shown to be right with God by his actions? (V21) _____

15. What made Abraham's faith complete? (V22) _____

16. How are we shown to be right with God? (V23) _____

17. What other example does the Bible give regarding being right with God? (V25) _____

18. What good is a person's faith in God if it's not accompanied by good deeds? (V26) _____

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **second** part of the Lord's Prayer (*May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven*), Pray for God's will (His plan and His ways) to be done in your life, and in the life of those around you.

Answer Key

1. Favoritism.
2. The poor and the rich.
3. Because our judgments are guided by evil motives.
4. Poor people tend to rely on their Faith more.
5. Love your neighbor as yourself.
6. Committing a sin and Breaking the Law.
7. Breaking all of God's Laws.
8. You will be judged by Law.
9. None.

10. Seeing someone who needs food and clothing and not doing anything about it.
11. To have that kind of faith is dead and useless.
12. By our good deeds.
13. Even the Demons believe in God.
14. By offering his son as a sacrifice on the alter.
15. His actions.
16. By what we do (not by faith alone).
17. Rahab the prostitute, and how she hid God's messengers.
18. It's dead (and useless).

JAMES

Chapter 3 Bible Study

Controlling the Tongue

¹ Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

³ We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴ And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵ In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶ And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

⁷ People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰ And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ¹¹ Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹² Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

1. Who will be judged more strictly than others? (V1) _____

2. If we could control our tongues, what would we be, and what else could we do? (V2) _____

3. What does the Bible compare the tongue to, in that it is very small, and yet can cause big results, either for good or for bad? (2 things from V3,4) _____

4. What else is the tongue compared to, in that it is small but can cause great damage if it is not controlled? (V5b) _____

5. What five characteristics are given to describe an uncontrolled tongue? (V6) _____

6. This portion of scripture talks about taming the tongue, what things does it say people can tame? (V7) _____

7. What other description is given to the untamed tongue? (V8) _____

8. What examples are given about the tongue in describing how it sometimes does good, but then sometimes does bad? (V9) _____

Note: *To curse in the original language means ... To pray against, to wish evil against a person or thing. Verse 9 is saying that the tongue is sometimes used to wish evil against those made in the image of God (meaning against people).*

9. Is it right to curse people (to wish evil against them)? (V10) _____

True Wisdom Comes from God

¹³ If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶ For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

10. If you think you are wise and understand God's ways, how can you prove it? (V13) _____

11. What type of behavior should we not cover up, by boasting and lying? (V14) _____

12. What is jealousy and selfishness described as not being, and what is jealousy and selfishness described as? (V15) _____

13. Where there is jealousy and selfishness, what else will you find? (V16) _____

14. Wisdom from above is in direct contrast to Jealousy and selfish ambition. How is “wisdom from above”, described? (7 things from V17) _____

15. People who rely on wisdom from above, instead of wisdom that is “earthly”, are called peacemakers. What will peacemakers do, and as a result what will they receive? (V18) _____

Note: *The original Greek term for righteousness was “Rightwiseness”, which means “The character or quality of being right or just; the condition acceptable to God”.*

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **third** part of the Lord’s Prayer (*Give us today the food we need*), Pray to God and ask Him to provide for your needs in life (Food, clothing, shelter, healthy relationships, etc).

Answer Key

1. Teachers in the Church.
2. We would be perfect, and we could control ourselves in every other way.
3. The tongue is compared to the small bit that controls a large horse, and a small rudder that controls a huge ship.
4. It is compared to a spark that causes a forest fire.
5. A flame of fire, a whole world of wickedness, it corrupts your entire body, it can set your whole life on fire, and it is set on fire by hell itself.
6. Animals, birds, reptiles and fish.
7. Restless and evil, full of deadly poison.
8. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those made in the image of God (referring to people).
9. No.
10. By living an honorable life, and doing good works with humility that comes from wisdom.
11. Being bitterly jealous, and having selfish ambition in our hearts.
12. They are not God’s kind of wisdom; they are earthly, unspiritual and demonic.
13. You will find disorder and evil of every kind.
14. First of all pure, peace loving, gentile at all times, willing to yield to others, full of mercy and good deeds, shows no favoritism, is always sincere.
15. They will plant seeds of peace and they will receive (or reap), a harvest of righteousness.

JAMES

Chapter 4 Bible Study

Drawing Close to God

¹ What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ² You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³ And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁴ You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵ What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? ⁶ But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud, but favors the humble."

⁷ So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹ Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

1. What cause the fights and quarrels between you and other people? (V1)

2. What's the motive for this fight and what does this fight look like? (V2) _____

3. Why don't we get what we want? (V2b,3) _____

4. What is the adultery that the Bible talks about in verse 4 that makes us an enemy of God? (V4) _____

NOTE: When the Bible refers to "The World", it is referring to "The people in the world that do not live for Christ but live for pleasures, possessions and pride in our possessions and achievements".

5. What can help us fight against the selfish desires within us? (V6) _____

6. What does God prefer, a proud person or a humble person? (V6) _____

7. How can you get the devil to flee from you? (V7) _____

8. How can you get God to draw close to you? (V8a) _____

9. Why does verse 8 instruct us to wash our hands and purify our hearts? (V8) _____

Warning against Judging Others

¹¹ Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. ¹² God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

10. In verse 11, James talks about criticizing and judging the law (referring to the second greatest commandment, to love your neighbor), what behavior did he say causes us to criticize and judge the law? (V11) _____

11. What is our job when it comes to law (law meaning Jesus's commands to love our neighbor, and love God with all our heart)? (V11) _____

12. This passage tells us not to judge the law, or to judge our neighbor. Whose job is it to judge people? (V12) _____

13. Who has the power to save you or destroy you? (V12) _____

Warning about Self-Confidence

¹³ Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." ¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. ¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ Otherwise you are boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil.

¹⁷ Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

14. The Bible says that we should not have such great confidence that we think we can plan our lives out. What should we say instead? (V13-15) _____

15. What is it called when you know “the good” that you ought to do, and yet you don’t do it? (V17) _____

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **fourth** part of the Lord’s Prayer (*forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us*), pray to God and ask Him to 1) Forgive you for the wrong things you have done 2) Ask Him to help you forgive people that have hurt you.

Answer Key

1. Evil desires that war within us.
2. We want what others have, so we scheme, kill and fight to take it from them.
3. Because we don’t ask God for it, and when we do ask Him, we ask with selfish motives.
4. Trying to be a friend with the world and with God, at the same time.
5. God’s grace.
6. A humble person.
7. Humble yourself before God and resist the devil.
8. Draw close to Him (God).
9. Because our loyalty is sometimes divided between God and the world.
10. Speaking evil against each other, and criticizing and judging each other.
11. To obey it.
12. It’s God’s job to judge people.
13. God.
14. If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.
15. It is sin.

JAMES

Chapter 5 Bible Study

Warning to the Rich

¹ Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. ² Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. ³ Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

⁵ You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

1. Who is James warning in chapter 5, as he writes this portion of scripture under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit? (V1) _____

2. How are rich people described? (5 things from V2,3) _____

3. When James describes the rich, he is not saying that it is bad to have wealth, he is warning about decisions that could be made because people tend to rely on their wealth more than rely on God. What does verse 4 say that some rich people do? (V4) _____

4. What will happen as a result? (V4b) _____

5. What other behaviors are rich people known for as far as God is concerned? (4 things from V5,6) _____

Patience and Endurance

⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They

eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. ⁸You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

¹²But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

6. What example is given as we are encouraged to wait for Jesus to return? (V7)

7. What are we told "NOT" to do, towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, and what would the result be if we did do it? (V9) _____

8. What two examples are given to encourage us as we suffer for the Lord's sake? (V10-11) _____

9. What two benefits can we expect for enduring suffering for the Lord's sake? (V11) _____

10. Instead of taking an oath (To swear by something, or to promise) how should we respond to people when asked about something? (V12) _____

The Power of Prayer

¹³Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. ¹⁴Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. ¹⁷Elijah was as human as we are, and yet when he prayed

earnestly that no rain would fall, none fell for three and a half years! ¹⁸ Then, when he prayed again, the sky sent down rain and the earth began to yield its crops.

11. What should you do if you are suffering hardships? (V13) _____
What should you do if you are happy? (V13) _____ What should
you do if you are sick? (V14) _____
12. What can a prayer offered in faith do? (V15) _____

13. Verse 16 has a powerful principle about how to resolve conflict, and if you follow it the result will be healing in your relationships. What two things does it say you should do? (V16) _____

***Note:** One of the greatest “fuels” to any conflict is when both people think they are right. The reality is that both of them are right in their own mind. Confessing your sin (or wrong doing) to the other person lowers their defenses and creates opportunity for reconciliation. Even confessing that you hurt the other person, whether you meant to or not, will help to lower the hurtful emotions, you will then have a better chance to start on the path to healing in the relationship.*

14. Is there any benefit to the earnest (serious, solemn, intense) prayer of a righteous (in right standing with God) person? (V16b) _____

Restore Wandering Believers

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, ²⁰ you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

15. If someone brings back a person who has wandered away from the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, what benefit will it be? (V19,20) _____

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Prayer Guide: Based upon the **fifth** part of the Lord's Prayer (*don't let us yield to temptation but rescue us from the evil one*), pray and ask God to help you overcome temptation to do the wrong thing during your day. These temptations comes from your selfish desires inside you (your flesh), but also are influenced by the evil one (Satan).

Answer Key

1. He is warning the rich.
2. Their wealth is rotting, their fine clothes are moth-eaten rags, their gold and silver has become worthless, their wealth will eat their flesh like fire, their treasure will stand evidence against them on the Day of Judgment.
3. They cheat their workers by not paying them what they are worth.
4. Their cries will reach the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.
5. Living in luxury, satisfying their every desire, fattening themselves for the day of slaughter, condemning and killing innocent people.
6. The example of how a farmer waits patiently for the rain to water his crops.
7. Don't grumble about other believers, or you will be judged.
8. The prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord (in the Old Testament), and the example of Job who endured suffering.
9. We will receive great honor, and the Lord will be kind to us in the end.
10. Just say a simple yes or no.
11. Pray; Sing Praises, Call for the elders to pray for you.
12. It can heal the sick and the Lord will make you well.
13. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other.
14. It has great power and produces wonderful results.
15. They will be saved from death and will bring about the forgiveness of many sins.