



Faith ^{that} works

Part 2

Name: _____
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

FALL 2020

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LETTER FROM KEITH

It goes without saying that this has been a crazy year! 2020 will go down in history as a crisis filled season of life for those who lived through it. Trial after trial, hardship after hardship, and I doubt if anyone was exempt. While many are looking for the end of the world or for Jesus to come back [and he might!] I think the Letter of James might offer us a greater direction and understanding to our lives today.

James 1:2-4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Everything we go through is a chance for us to grow in our faith and maturity in Christ. With that in mind, we can have joy when we go through a year like 2020. What an opportunity for growth! James has so much more to say about our faith and how we live it out each and every day. James is a very practical letter to the church and so relevant for us today, so let’s dig in! We will be preaching through this letter each week on Sundays, and I pray you will use this book in your Life Groups and/or on your own. You can use this booklet to engage in God’s Word even deeper through the discussion questions, personal devotions, and through the daily devotion led by our staff on the Wentzville Christian Church Facebook page.

We can look back on 2020 as a difficult year or we can consider it pure joy because we grew in our faith and dependence on God the Father! We discovered a ***faith that works!***

Blessings,

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to ignite a passion for the Bible in your daily life. God's Word is living, active, and useful for our lives...but so few Christians actually engage in it daily. We want to provide you with a resource that you can use on your own and with your Life Group to ignite and sustain this passion. We want to make God's Word our way.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer these questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says that if you do not put his words into practice then you are a fool [Matthew 7:24-27]. Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. Feel free to answer these questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook.

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

Please focus this time on *your own personal* praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

WCC supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to support them with our finances as well as our prayers and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and Scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God's Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify His truth into your heart and your life.

Wk 6 - Taming the Tongue

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 6 - TAMING THE TONGUE [JAMES 3:1-12]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When has your mouth gotten you into trouble?
2. When has your wit and mouth gotten you out of trouble?
3. Who is someone that always has a positive or uplifting thing to say every time you see them?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. What are some professions that require a higher level of accountability, both professionally and personally? Why do you think this is?
2. Read James 3:1. Why do you think such a big responsibility is placed on those who teach the Word of God? Is this talking about earthly or heavenly standards?
3. Read James 3:2. How does this verse connect with verse 1? What could the “body” be referring to?

4. Read James 3:3-6. List the 3 real life examples that illustrate the power of the tongue. Notice that the first two are positive examples, while the third is negative. Why would James include all of these examples
5. What are some other real-life examples of something small that has a large impact on something large?
6. Read James 3:7-8. Do you really think it is impossible for us to tame our tongues? What about the end of verse 2? What do you think James means here?
7. Read James 3:9-12. How does this relate to what he says in chapter 1 and 2 about people who say they believe, but do not show it with their actions?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

[These questions are for personal application. They can be answered out-loud if someone wants to share, but do not force it. Ask each question and give time for personal reflection.]

1. In the past week, how have your words harmed others?
2. In the past week, how have your words helped others?
3. In the next week, how will you have better control of your tongue so you can be a positive influence to those around you?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

CMF International: Eric & Cait Pitts - Kenya

Eric & Cait serve with the Kenya Church Catalyst Team among the Turkana in northern Kenya. Eric's focus is on developing church leaders and pastors as well as working with a group of local disciple makers to begin a Disciple Making Movement that spreads throughout Kenya and beyond. Cait's focus is on community Health Evangelism, maining with girls and women throughout Turkana. You can find more information at cmfi.org/ecpitts.

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This faith-based organization seeks to improve the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. showmehelpingkids.com

DAILY DEVOTIONS [JAMES 3:1-12]

“¹Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ²We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. ¹⁰Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹²My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

DAY 1: James 3:1

- ▶ What kind of professions are held to a higher standard than others? Why do they need to be judged more strictly?
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- ▶ Why are teachers of the Bible judged more strictly? How does that change the way you approach teaching or listening to people teach the word of God?
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DAY 2: James 3:2

- ▶ Why do you think James needs to point out that we all stumble in different ways right after talking about how teachers are judged?
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- ▶ What do you think the rest of your life would be different if you had proper control of your tongue?
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DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 3:1-12]

DAY 3: James 3:3-6

- ▶ Which of these illustrations refer to a positive use of something small? Which one refers to a negative use? Why do you think James includes both?

- ▶ When have you used your speech to direct someone in a good way? Who in your life needs you to speak to them with positivity and encouragement?

DAY 4: James 3:7-8

- ▶ In light of verse 8, what hope do you have in being able to control your tongue ON YOUR OWN? Where should you place your hope on being able to tame your tongue?

- ▶ What steps do you need to take in order to represent God well with your speech?

DAY 5: James 3:9-12

- ▶ How does James explain the absurdity of how we use our tongue in different ways? Which of these illustrations are the most impactful on you?

- ▶ When have you been a hypocrite with your tongue or with your digital speech? In what arenas of your life do you need to focus on fresh, clean, wholesome, positive speech?

Wk 7 - True Wisdom

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 7 - TRUE WISDOM [JAMES 3:13-18]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is a subject/topic in which you have above average knowledge about?
2. What is a subject/topic in which you have well below average knowledge about?
3. When have you been able to help someone else because of your experience and knowhow?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read James 3:13. Who is the wisest person you know or have known? What do you think makes them so wise?
2. In what ways does James say we can recognize a wise person? How does this differ from how the world may consider a person wise?
3. Read James 3:14-15. Where does “wisdom” come from if it is not from God? How can we distinguish the type of wisdom we see around us?

4. Read James 3:15-16. Why do you think James is so harsh right here when he talks about ungodly wisdom?
5. Read James 3:17. Of all the attributes listed to describe Godly wisdom, why do you think pure is “first of all”? How is it more important than the others?
6. Read James 3:18. What other Scriptures does this make you think of?
7. How do you think this section on wisdom relates to the discussion from last week about taming the tongue? Why would James talk about these topics together?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How does this discussion on wisdom relate to your daily life? Where do you need to be more wise according to God's standards of wisdom?
2. How can you be a peacemaker who sows in peace this week? What harvest may you reap from this?
3. How will you show good deeds and a good life through godly wisdom this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — *Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy.*

HOPE Ministries Food Pantry

HOPE provides families in St. Charles county assistance with food and physical needs. You can donate non-perishable food items to this ministry by visiting the food cart in the WCC café. Take home a bag and bring it back with the items requested for the month.

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

Located in Kahoka and Clarence, MO, Shiloh is a safe haven for abused and neglected children, and includes six homes for children, two relief homes, and an onsite school. shilohranch.org

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 3:13-18]

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

DAY 1: James 3:13

- ▶ How does this verse relate to other areas of the book of James we have studied?

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- ▶ According to this verse, what should be the end result of wisdom? Where do you need to show wisdom in your life today?

DAY 2: James 3:14-15

- ▶ According to verse 14, what should never accompany Godly wisdom? Where does ungodly wisdom come from?

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- ▶ How can you seek to show Godly wisdom in your actions today? What are you harboring in your heart that keeps you from following the truth of God?

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 3:13-18]

DAY 3: James 3:16

- ▶ Why do you think the word disorder is associated with envy, selfish ambition, and evil practices? Where have you seen this take place in your life?

- ▶ Notice how humility is mentioned with Godly wisdom in verse 13, and demonic wisdom is associated with selfish ambition. How can you distinguish the two? Where do you need to reject selfish ambition in your life today?

DAY 4: James 3:17

- ▶ Take some time to reword each of these attributes of Godly wisdom in another way: pure; peace-loving; considerate; submissive; full of mercy and good fruit; impartial; sincere.

- ▶ Which of these attributes do you think is the most important for you to work on today? Pray for God to give you strength, wisdom, and opportunities to do this today.

DAY 5: James 3:18

- ▶ What is the difference between a peaceful person and a peacemaker? What needs to happen for you to do both this week?

- ▶ Why do you think righteousness is the harvest that comes from wisdom? What seeds can you plant today that will reap that harvest?

WK 8 - Humility

WEEK 8 - HUMILITY [JAMES 4:1-12]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is something you have always wanted but will probably never get?
2. As a child, what did you do when you did not get what you wanted?
3. When have you seen jealousy lead to a fight or quarrel?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read James 4:1-3. What is the root cause of the fights and quarrels with others? Why would James need to point this out, and why do you think he uses such harsh examples?
2. This is the second time James refers to the destruction of internal desires [Read James 1:14]. Why is it so important to understand the battlefield of our internal desires?

3. Read James 4:5-6. What are the results of being adulterous in our relationship with God? What do you think adultery with God looks like in our culture today?
4. According to verse 6, what is the antidote for falling into selfish desires, quarrels with others, and adultery with God? How are all of these related?
5. Read James 4:7-10. James wants us to put our faith into action. Which of the actions in these verses stand out to you? Why are they important for an authentic relationship with God?
6. Read James 4:11-12. Looking back at everything James has talked about in this section, how does judging others fit into this discussion?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you need to wash your hands and purify your heart?
2. How do you need to resist the devil this week? What does that look like?
3. What can you do to come near to God so he will be near to you this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and are excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. lovethelou.org

Outreach International: Josh & Susan Sanchez - Mexico

This mission, called Me & My House Ministries, is a church plant in Colima City. Their goal is to begin a church planting movement within the region.

Team Expansion: Allen & Cherry Messimer – Taiwan

The Messimers have served as missionaries in Taiwan since 2004. Their mission is to evangelize, disciple, and provide training so every believer can use his or her gifts in a simple church ministry. This also means every church can start new, indigenous churches. Over 90% of Taiwanese people still worship idols. teamexpansion.org

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 4:1-12]

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

¹¹Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”

DAY 1: James 4:1-3

- ▶ Who do you typically fight with? What are the topics you usually fight about? What [not who] is the root issue of most of those fights?

- ▶ When have you asked God for something out of selfish motives? How can you ask with the right motives? Do that today!

DAY 2: James 4:4-6

- ▶ In what areas of your life would you say you have been a friend of the world? How has that affected your relationship with God?

- ▶ God gives you more and more grace when we need it! How should that impact the way we live for him? Does it lead you to pride or humility?

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 4:1-12]

DAY 3: James 4:7

- ▶ What is the toughest battle you have ever fought in your life? What helped you come through it on the other side?

- ▶ Why do you think we need to submit ourselves to God before we fight the devil? Have you tried to do this on your own before?

DAY 4: James 4:8-10

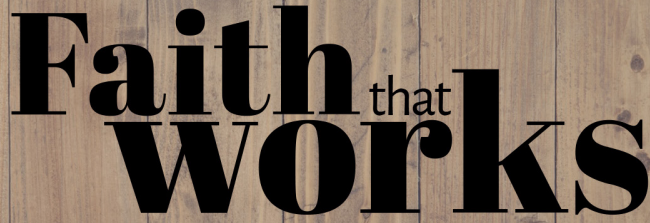
- ▶ What are some relationships that can sometimes be a struggle, but they have stayed strong because you both work at it? What things did you need to do in the relationship?

- ▶ What does it mean for you to come near to God? What do you need to do? How does it make you feel that he will be near to you as you seek Him?

DAY 5: James 4:11-12

- ▶ When have you been the victim of someone saying things about you that were not true? How did that impact your relationship with them and with others?

- ▶ Why is judging others and talking bad about them so harmful in the church? In families? In public? Who do you need to speak better of this week?



Wk 9 - Live for Today

WEEK 9 - LIVE FOR TODAY [JAMES 4:13-17]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What is on your bucket list? [Have everyone give at least 1 answer]
2. What are some things you like to brag about to others?
3. When have you been blind-sided by unforeseen circumstances?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read James 4:13-17. Then read verse 13 again. Does James indicate it is wrong for us to make plans for our lives? What is the point he is trying to make in this section?
2. Read vs. 14. Why would James want us to think of our lives as a mist that appears and then disappears?

3. Read vs. 15. James is probably not being literal when he says we should add “Lord willing” to every single statement we make. What do you think this verse means for us?

4. Read vs. 16. Why is it arrogant and evil to boast or brag about our plans? Does this mean it is wrong to be excited about our upcoming vacation or retirement plans? What is the point James is trying to make?

5. Read vs. 17. What is the difference between sins of commission and sins of omission? What are some examples?

6. What are some examples of when Jesus taught about the sin of omission?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What are some spiritual goals and plans you have for your life? For others?
2. How can you find out God's plan for your life instead of relying on your own?
3. In what ways do you need to concede control of your life to God this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Central Christian College of the Bible

The goal of Central Christian College of the Bible is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordably as possible. CCCB believes so completely in what their students will do for Christ that they want to not only equip them with a quality education, but an affordable one so their future ministry will not be burdened by financial stress. That is why CCCB offers a Full-Tuition Scholarship and will continue to do so as long as there are means. cccb.edu

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America

Missouri is home to 29 prisons and 2 county jails in 5 states. CPMM's goal is to evangelize, encourage, and equip the believers in all of these prisons. To date, over 400 inmates have been baptized!

christianprisonministryofmissouri.org

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 4:13-17]

“¹³Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”

DAY 1: James 4:13

- ▶ What are some big plans you have for your life? What are some things you still want to do before you die?

- ▶ What are some things you rely on for your future? Do you have an unhealthy reliance on any of those things? So much that you trust in them more than God?

DAY 2: James 4:14

- ▶ When have your plans been abruptly changed? How did you respond in that time?

- ▶ How does it make you feel to know you are a mere mist that appears and disappears? Does that make you feel small and insignificant? Or important that God cares for you?

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 4:13-17]

DAY 3: James 4:15

- ▶ Do you ever say “Lord willing” or “if it’s the Lord’s will”? Why or why not?

- ▶ Literally saying those statements after every sentence is probably not the point. How can you live in such a way that you rely on God’s will instead of your own?

DAY 4: James 4:16

- ▶ What are some things you would boast about when you were growing up? What are some things you hated that others boasted about?

- ▶ When can boasting be a good thing? What should we be boasting about as followers of Christ?

DAY 5: James 4:17

- ▶ When have you been guilty of not doing something good that you knew you should have done? What were the effects of you not stepping in to do what you should have done?

- ▶ God gave us at least 3 major helpers to help us know what we ought to do in this life: The Bible, the Holy Spirit, and other faithful Christians. How will you listen to each of these this week?

Wk 10 - The Curse of Wealth

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WEEK 10 - THE CURSE OF WEALTH [JAMES 5:1-6]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. What was your first job in which you received a paycheck?
2. What has been your most interesting job? Or the most interesting part of a job?
3. Have you had a boss you felt was overpaid or underpaid? Explain.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read James 5:1-6. How does this section relate to what we talked about last week with James 4:13-17?
2. James is usually quick to give instructions on how to live our lives and obey Scripture. Why do you think this section lacks his typical commands?

3. If James were to write this letter to Christians today, whom do you think he would address this part of the letter to? What would he say?
4. Read James 5:1. Why would James use such harsh language for rich people? How does this relate to what Jesus says in Matthew 19:23-24?
5. Read James 5:2-3 and Matthew 6:19-21. How are these teachings related? What are some goals or plans we should have with our wealth and possessions?
6. Read James 5:4-6. What do we learn about God in these verses? What do we learn about what [and who] he cares about?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. When has greed led you to take advantage of someone else?
2. In what ways do you live in unnecessary luxury? How are you self-indulgent with your wealth and possessions?
3. How will you use your wealth to bless others this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Haitian Island Ministries

Steve & Terry Smith, WCC members

This organization operates medical programs providing free vitamins, medicine, and medical care and feeding programs which provide a daily meal for thousands of Haitian children each month. They also build schools and churches in some of the most remote areas of Haiti. Their medical program has served hundreds of thousands of Haitians. haitianislandministries.org

St. Louis Christian College

SLCC seeks to educate Christians and to graduate leaders who are equipped for service to God. They seek learners who are committed to Christ and highly motivated to serve God and the church; students who are capable of completing the academic rigors of a college education; adults who are willing to acquire both knowledge and skills through service and off-campus learning experiences; and men and women who are drawn from a diversity of geographic, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. stlchristian.edu

DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 5:1-6]

“¹Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.”

DAY 1: James 5:1

- ▶ Who were the rich people in town when you were growing up? What did they have or do that made them seem rich?
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- ▶ This verse seems like a downer. How can you turn it into a positive? What do you need to do so you will not weep and wail or suffer misery?
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DAY 2: James 5:2-3

- ▶ What is something you paid a lot of money for that is now broken or useless? What happened to it?
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- ▶ Are you guilty of hoarding wealth? Why is this so dangerous for a follower of Christ? How can you be generous and healthy with your wealth?
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DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 5:1-6]

DAY 3: James 5:4

- ▶ When have you had a job where you thought you were underpaid for what you did? How did it make you feel toward your bosses and the company?

- ▶ James points out that treating others poorly in the workplace can come back to haunt you. How does it make you feel that the cries of the oppressed are reaching the ears of God?

DAY 4: James 5:5

- ▶ Look around you. Name 5 things in your home you bought because you had excess money and wanted to indulge yourself. Are you guilty of living in luxury?

- ▶ What is the result of living in luxury? How would you define it?

DAY 5: James 5:6

- ▶ When have you been blamed for something you did not do? When have you blamed someone else for something you did?

- ▶ This verse literally says that we condemned and murdered the “righteous one.” Who do you think that could be a reference to? Why is it referred to here?

Wk 11 - Patience & Prayer

Wk 11 - Patience & Prayer

[illegible]

WEEK 11 - PATIENCE & PRAYER [JAMES 5:7-20]

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. When you were younger, what were some things in which you waited for with excitement, suspense, and anticipation?
2. When have you convinced someone to do something they did not want to do?
3. What prayer are you thankful that God did not answer in the way you wanted at the time?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Read James 5:7-11. According to verses 7 and 10, what are we called to be patient about? Why do you think James mentions these two things together?
2. James says those who are patient and persevere in the face of suffering are blessed. What kind of blessing does this look like? How does this relate to the opening in James 1:2-4?
3. Read James 5:13-14. What should be our first response when we are faced with trouble, pain, sickness, and even happiness? Why is this so important?

4. Read James 5:15-16. Some say these healings are physical, while others say they refer to spiritual healing. What do you think? Why is it important to distinguish the two?
5. If someone only read the first part of verse 15, what conclusions could they come to? How does the opening of James and the section we talked about earlier bring more perspective to this verse?
6. How can the last sentence of verse 16 be used out of context? How does the context of this passage and the section from above give us more context to what it really means?
7. James says we should do three things when we want to be healed: ask for prayer from church leaders, confess our sins to other brothers/sisters, and pray with and for others. Why are each of these important for healing to take place?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. Where in your life do you need more patience as you persevere in the face of suffering?
2. What kind of healing do you need to pray for in your life? In your heart? In someone else?
3. How can you make prayer a bigger part of your life? What will be the benefits?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. teamexpansion.org

High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. highhillcamp.org

DAILY DEVOTIONS [JAMES 5:7-20]

⁷“Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. ⁹Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

¹²Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple “Yes” or “No.” Otherwise you will be condemned.

¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

DAY 1: James 5:7-9

- ▶ When you miss someone, is it better for you to talk with them each day or to try not to think about them?
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- ▶ Why do you think James is reassuring everyone that Jesus’ return will come soon enough? Do you think about and expect the return of Jesus each day?
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DAY 2: James 5:10-12

- ▶ When have you handled yourself well when faced with a tough situation? Who and what helped you get through it?
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- ▶ James tells us to have patience and perseverance in the face of suffering. How does that relate to God being full of compassion and mercy? How do these statements make you feel?
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DAILY DEVOTION [JAMES 5:7-20]

DAY 3: James 5:13-14

- ▶ What kind of things do you do when you are in a happy mood? What kind of things do you do or avoid when you are in a sad mood?
- ▶ The three commands all have to do with prayer...in the good times and in the bad. Why is prayer so important? Why is praying with others so important?

DAY 4: James 5:15-18

- ▶ When have you prayed for someone and they got better? When have you prayed for someone and they did not get better? What kind of prayer did you pray?
- ▶ Why do you think confessing our sins and praying with other people is connected to being healed [physically and spiritually]? Who do you need to pray for and with today?

DAY 5: James 5:19-20

- ▶ Have you ever wandered off and gotten separated from your family or a group? What led you to lose the group, and how did you find them again?
- ▶ What is at stake if someone wanders away from the truth of God? What is our responsibility as their friend or loved one? Who do you need to pray for and talk to today?