

A journey through James

James writes to encourage believers to live consistently with what they have learnt in Christ. He wants them to mature in their faith by living what they say they believe. Join us as we journey through James.

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**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

Live light

Scripture taken from *The Holy Bible: NIV*

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
1	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.	James 1:2-3	When Jesus is your Lord, you live for him as your first priority. Theoretically, this means you can have a different perspective on the trials you face. By leaning on God's strength, he will support you through your trials, enabling you to persevere, even in the deepest darkness. How can you be preparing yourself for the trials that will inevitably come to you?	Father God, Help me keep my eyes on you today. Fill me with your joy and your strength. In Jesus name, Amen.
2	If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.	James 1:5-8	There is a difference between wisdom and knowledge. It's great to have knowledge, but wisdom is when we apply our knowledge to our lives. There are lots of situations in life where we need God-given wisdom to know what to do, and the great news is that God loves to give wisdom to those who ask! We don't need to wonder about whether God will give us his wisdom, simply ask and believe he will give it. What do you need wisdom for today? Have you asked God for it?	Father God, Please give me wisdom. Help me make wise decisions, help me walk in your ways today in all that I think, say and do. In Jesus name, Amen.
3	My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.	James 1:19-20	God gave us two ears and one mouth, so perhaps we should listen twice as much as we talk! Frustration is a natural part of life in this fallen world, and we all need help to practice self-control when it comes to reacting in anger. Counting to ten, taking a deep breath and asking the Lord to help us calm down can save a lot of fights and save us from saying and doing the wrong thing. Think of one person you find it hard to patiently listen to. Pray that the Lord would help you be patient with them.	Father God, Train my ears to be a good listener, help me guard my mouth, help me control my anger, be my Prince of Peace. In Jesus name, Amen.

A journey through James (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
4	Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.	James 1:26-27	<p>God is less interested in our words and more interested in our actions. As the old saying goes, “talk is cheap”. As believers in Jesus, part of our calling is to look after the most vulnerable people in our society: the widows and orphans. In our world, this might include the homeless, the asylum seekers, the lonely, the sick, the mentally ill and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Can you think of someone vulnerable who might need your love today?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Give me the right words to say, teach me to be careful with my words. Give me your heart for the vulnerable in society. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>
5	What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.	James 2:14-17	<p>Rev. John Stott once wrote: “I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger. I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel in the cellar and prayed for my release. I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance. I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health. I was homeless and you preached to me about the spiritual shelter of the love of God. I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me. Christian, you seem so holy; so close to God. But I’m still very hungry, and lonely, and cold...”</p> <p>Who will you love in action today?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Enable me to care for the physical needs of those who you put in my path. Help me provide care in a practical sense, not just in a spiritual sense. Use me to reach those in need today. I pray in Jesus name, Amen.</p>
6	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. The 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.	James 3:5-6	<p>How often have we looked back on a day and wished we had spoken differently? Even though that is the benefit of hindsight, there is definite wisdom in intentionally trying to guard our speech. But we cannot do this alone; we need God’s help.</p> <p>Will you ask God to help you guard your speech today?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Speak to me and through me today. Holy Spirit, show me what to say and when to say it and to whom it should be said. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>

A journey through James (continued)

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7	But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.	James 3:14-16	There are two arrows in the devils quiver that he fires at us regularly: envy and selfish ambition. Many a believer has been pierced by these arrows and poisoned. But we are God’s people, and we can ask him to help us resist these things. And don’t forget how much God loves to answer you when you ask him for help. Who are you envious of? How can you love them today?	Father God, Create in me a clean heart. Cleanse me from my selfish ways. I humble myself before you and choose to honour others. In Jesus name, Amen.
8	But 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. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.	James 3:17-18	If your family were asked to describe you, would they say that you’re, “pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy, impartial and sincere?” If your answer is no, then do not fear! No one is like that all the time, except Jesus. But because Jesus loves you so much, he is working in you to create this Christlike character. And he wants you to work together with him, to treat those you meet with peace and love. Will you sow peace in your relationships today?	Father God, Guide me today to be a person of peace, of purity, considerate and submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Use me as a peacemaker today. In Jesus name, Amen.
9	God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you.	James 4:6-8	One of the best weapons against the devil is humility. He loves to latch on to our pride to trip us up. But the opposite of pride is humility. And humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. We can only do this by the power of God’s Holy Spirit. God loves to help us resist the devil, and is helping you even now to turn away from the temptations that you face. What will humility look like for you today?	Father God, I submit myself to you today. I’m reporting for duty and am ready for wherever you lead me today. I humble myself and draw near to you with all my heart. In Jesus name, Amen.

A journey through James (continued)

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10	<p>Now 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.” Why, 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. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.</p>	James 4:13-17	<p>Some of us love to plan, while others of us don’t ever think about the future! What diversity God has made! Whether you’re the 10-year-plan kind of person, or the one-day-at-a-time kind of person, we are all called to seek the Lord’s will in our planning and decision-making. That means asking for guidance, and listening to what God might have to say to you.</p> <p>What plans have you made for your life? Have you asked God to guide you in the steps he wants you to take?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Open the right doors, and close the wrong doors in my life. Help me have discernment and wisdom about the good you have called me to. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>
11	<p>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. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!</p>	James 5:7-9	<p>Can you imagine if Jesus returned today? It’s a bit scary, a bit exciting, and a bit overwhelming! After 2000 years, it can be easy to fall into complacency as we wait for Jesus to come back for us. But the reality is Jesus could come back today – he could come back before you finish reading this email! Are you ready?</p> <p>How can you increase your expectation of the return of the Lord Jesus?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Come quickly Lord! Make me ready for your return. Help me be patient and to stand firm with you today. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>
12	<p>Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is 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. And 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.</p>	James 5:13-15	<p>Corrie Ten Boom once said, “Let prayer be your steering wheel not your spare wheel.” Whether it is trouble, happiness or sickness, God wants us to pray – to talk to him and tell him everything in our hearts. We can always look for answers to our prayers, but the key is to always give everything to the Lord in prayer and trust that in his timing, he will answer you in his own way.</p> <p>Don’t just sit there, tell God how you feel!</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Help me start the day with you today, help me continue to draw near to you all day long. I choose to seek you first in all that I say and do. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>

A journey through James (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
13	Therefore 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. Elijah 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. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.	James 5:16-18	<p>There is freedom in the confession of sin. Jesus longs to hear you ask him, “Did you die, even for this ugly sin?” because his answer is always YES.</p> <p>Is there unconfessed sin in your life? Ask God to forgive you, and may you know deeply that Jesus is able and willing to forgive it.</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Thank you for forgiving me all my sins. May my prayers be powerful and effective, just like Elijah. Lead me today as I pray, in Jesus name, Amen.</p>
14	My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.	James 5:19-20	<p>God’s heart is to leave the 99 sheep and go after the one who is missing. Do you have the same heart? When someone we know is walking away from Jesus, it is part of our job to go and find them and help them return to the light, always lovingly, prayerfully and graciously.</p> <p>Can you think of anyone who needs to be brought back to the Lord? Will you contact them right now?</p>	<p>Father God,</p> <p>Give me your heart for those that have strayed, anoint my words as I minister to them. Draw them back to you, I pray. In Jesus name, Amen.</p>