

Meditative Study of James

Fall 2021

This is an adaptation of a meditative study guide by Gary Holloway: *Hebrews & James: Brother Jesus* ISBN 978-0-89112-505-1

6:30 in person in the church library and at this link on **ZOOM**: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86078935001>

Weekday Study Calendar

→ Tue. Sept 21	Group Study <i>Intro to James and His Book</i>
Wed. & Thu. Sept 22 & 23	Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:1-8
Fri. & Mon. Sept 24 & 27	Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:9-11
Tue. & Wed. Sept 28 & 29	Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:12-18
Thu. & Fri. Sept 30 & Oct 1	Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:19-27
Mon. Oct 4	Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:1-27 <i>review</i>
→ Tues. Oct 5	Group Study of 1:1-27
Wed. & Thu. Oct 6 & 7	Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:1-7
Fri. & Mon. Oct 8 & 11	Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:8-13
Tue. & Wed. Oct 12 & 13	Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:14-19
Thu. & Fri. Oct 14 & 15	Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:20-26
Mon. Oct 18	Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:1-26 <i>review</i>
→ Tues. Oct 19	Group Study of 2:1-26
Wed. & Thu. Oct 20 & 21	Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:1-6
Fri. & Mon. Oct 22 & 25	Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:7-12
Tue. & Wed. Oct 26 & 27	Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:13-18
Thu. & Fri. Oct 28 & 29	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:1-3
Mon. Nov 1	Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:1-4:3 <i>review</i>
→ Tues. Nov 2	Group Study of 3:1-4:3
Wed. & Thu. Nov 3 & 4	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:4-6
Fri. & Mon. Nov 5 & 8	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:7-10
Tue. & Wed. Nov 9 & 10	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:11-12
Thu. & Fri. Nov 11 & 12	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:13-17
Mon. Nov 15	Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:3-17 <i>review</i>
→ Tues. Nov 16	Group Study of 4:4-17
Wed. & Thu. Nov 17 & 18	Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:1-6
Fri. & Mon. Nov 19 & 22	Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:7-11
Tue. & Wed. Nov 23 & 24	Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:12-16
Thu. & Fri. Nov 25 & 26	Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:17-20
Mon. Nov 29	Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:1-20 <i>review</i>
→ Tues. Nov 30	Group Study of 5:1-20

INTRO

Who is this "James"?

1. The use of the name "James" with no further amplification or explanation assumes that his readers know who he is, as in *Jude 1*; see also *Mark 3:20-21, 30-32; 6:3; Acts 1:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:7*.
2. It is unlikely that this is James the brother of John, who was one of the 12, since he was "put to the sword" early in the history of the church (*Acts 12:2*).
3. It is more likely that this "James" is the brother of Jesus.
Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19; 2:9

Who are the 12 tribes of the "diaspora"?

The Book of James is moral exhortation.

1. In James, there are _____ imperatives in _____ verses.
2. Reminds "beloved brethren" (*1:2,16,19; 2:1,5,14; 3:1,10; 4:11; 5:7,9,10,12,19*) of what they already know (*1:3; 3:1; 4:4; 5:20*).
3. Points the Church to models of righteousness:
Abraham **2:21-23** Rahab **2:25**
Job **5:11** Elijah **5:17**

Love for neighbor in the NT

Matthew 5:43 *love neighbor/love enemy*

Matthew 19:19; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9 *inherit eternal life*

Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31 *greatest commandments*

Galatians 5:14 *love for neighbor fulfills whole law*

James 2:8 *law of the Kingdom*

Leviticus 19:9-18 and the Book of James

Leviticus 19:11-12

James 2:1, 4, 9 *impartial treatment of rich or poor*

Leviticus 19:13

James 2:8 *love your neighbor as yourself fulfills the "royal law"*

Leviticus 19:9-10; 15

James 4:11-12 *no slander or evil speech against your people*

Leviticus 19:16

James 5:4 *fairness in dealing with laborers*

Leviticus 19:17^b

James 5:12 *do not swear, let your "yes be yes" and your "no be no"*

Leviticus 19:18^b

James 5:20 *reason frankly with neighbor, reclaim sinner from error*

Questions for *James* 1:1-27 Sept 22 - Oct 5

Wed. & Thu. Sept 22 & 23

Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:1-8

1. Do we ever associate trials with joy? How can trials produce joy?
2. What is wisdom? How do we get it?
3. What does it mean to be double-minded? How does that relate to asking for wisdom?

Fri. & Mon. Sept 24 & 27

Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:9-11

1. What kind of pride should the poor (those in humble circumstances) have?
2. How do the poor have a high position? How do the rich have a low position?
3. Is this the way we usually think of rich and poor?

Tue. & Wed. Sept 28 & 29

Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:12-18

1. Why is it important that God does not tempt us?
2. How is sin a process? In what ways does it help us if we understand that process?
3. Why is it important that the Father does not change? How does this help us when we are tempted?

Thu. & Fri. Sept 30 & Oct 1

Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:19-27

1. Why are most of us quicker to speak than to listen? What can we do about it? How does this tendency relate to anger?
2. What is the point of the mirror illustration?
3. Are caring for the needy and not being polluted by the world related? If so, how?

Mon. Oct 4

Read, Meditate, Respond to 1:1-27 review

1. How are we tested in life by the following things: problems ... money ... speech ... caring for the poor
2. When do we particularly need wisdom? How can we get it?
3. How does God plant his word in us? How does that word save us?



Tue. Oct 5

Group Study @ 6:30, in person and on Zoom

Questions for *James* 2:1-27 Oct 6-19

Wed. & Thu. Oct 6 & 7 Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:1-7

1. What is favoritism? Why might we tend to favor the rich over the poor?
2. Have you ever seen favoritism in the church? If so, what form did it take?
3. According to this passage, does God favor the poor? Why or why not?

Fri. & Mon. Oct 8 & 11 Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:8-13

1. What is the royal law? Why is it called “royal”?
2. How does the law give freedom? What law is James talking about?
3. Do we extend the same mercy that we want from God and others?

Tue. & Wed. Oct 12 & 13 Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:14-19

1. What specific deeds or acts of faith are mentioned here?
2. How do we show that we have faith?
3. What do demons believe about God? Do demons have saving faith? Why is it not enough to believe in God?

Thu. & Fri. Oct 14 & 15 Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:20-26

1. How did Abraham show his faith? Do we have that much faith?
2. Do our good deeds save or justify us? What does it mean that we are not justified by faith alone?
3. Why do you think Rahab is given as an example here, alongside Abraham?

Mon. Oct 18 Read, Meditate, Respond to 2:1-26 review

1. What does it mean to love our neighbor? How do we show that love?
2. Is there a contradiction between Paul who says one is saved by faith without works (see Romans 3:27-4:3) and James who clearly says that faith without works cannot save?
3. How does showing mercy relate to an active faith?

★ Tue. Oct 19 Group Study @ 6:30, in person and on Zoom

Questions for *James* **3:1-4:3** Oct 20-Nov 2

Wed. & Thu. Oct 20 & 21 Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:1-6

1. Why will teachers be judged more strictly?
2. How can the tongue control the whole shape of our lives?
3. Is the tongue an evil in itself? What can make it evil?

Fri. & Mon. Oct 22 & 25 Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:7-12

1. Since no one can tame the tongue, why do we have these warnings about it? Can we do nothing to tame the tongue?
2. Why is inconsistency with the tongue such a problem? Why would those who praise God curse others?
3. What is the point of these water and produce illustrations?

Tue. & Wed. Oct 26 & 27 Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:13-18

1. How does one show wisdom? Is this similar to how one shows faith?
2. What characterizes earthly wisdom?
3. What things characterize wisdom from heaven?

Thu. & Fri. Oct 28 & Oct 29 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:1-3

1. How does the worldly wisdom discussed in these verses lead to fights and quarrels?
2. Can desires actually lead to murder? Give an example.
3. Should we ask God for all things that we may desire?

Mon. Nov 1 Read, Meditate, Respond to 3:1-4:3 review

1. How does wisdom relate to controlling the tongue?
2. Is ambition a good thing or a bad thing?
3. Compare the description of wisdom in verses 17-18 with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. Are they similar? What might this say about heavenly wisdom?

☆ Tue. Nov 2 Group Study @ 6:30, in person and on Zoom

Questions for *James* 4:4-17 Nov 3-16

Wed. & Thu. Nov 3 & 4 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:4-6

1. Why does James use the word “adulterous” to describe the attitude here?
2. What does it mean to be a friend of the world? What are some ways we try to be friends of the world?
3. Does humility earn grace? Why do the humble receive more grace?

Fri. & Mon. Nov 5 & 8 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:7-10

1. What are some ways we can resist the devil?
2. What does it mean to be double-minded? How can we prevent this?
3. Shouldn't Christians be joyful? Why are we told here to grieve, mourn, and wail? What are we to wail about?

Tue. & Wed. Nov 9 & 10 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:11-12

1. What is slander? Have you ever been slandered or have you ever slandered others?
2. How is speaking against a brother speaking against the law?
3. Should we never judge our neighbor? Can we never condemn the actions of another?

Thu. & Fri. Nov 11 & 12 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:13-17

1. Shouldn't we make plans in our businesses, careers, and lives? Can there be good planning and bad planning?
2. In what way is life short, like a mist? Do we live as if life is short?
3. How would we live if we really meant, “If the Lord wills”? What does this phrase look like in action?

Mon. Nov 15 Read, Meditate, Respond to 4:4-17 review

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “worldly”? Is slander worldly? Is making plans without God worldly or is boasting and bragging worldly?
2. What does it mean to submit? Do you find it hard to submit to God? Can we submit and still have things our own way?
3. How does failing to do what is known to be good constitute sin?

★ Tue. Nov 16

Group Study @ 6:30, in person and on Zoom

Questions for *James* 5:1-20 Nov 17- 30

Wed. & Thu. Nov 17 & 18

Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:1-6

1. Is wealth in itself evil? What does this passage say that riches will do for (or to) wealthy people?
2. How should rich people respond to this passage? How should poor and oppressed people respond?
3. If riches are so harmful, why do we seek them?

Fri. & Mon. Nov 19 & 22

Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:7-11

1. In what ways are farmers patient? How is this an example for disciples of Jesus?
2. What does patience have to do with grumbling?
3. How were the prophets and Job patient? Did they never complain? What kind of patience did they have?

Tue. & Wed. Nov 23 & 24

Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:12-16

1. What is swearing? Why should we not swear?
2. What is the role of oil in this passage? Does oil heal? How is it related to prayer?
3. Is there another person to whom you confess? Should you?

Thu. & Fri. Nov 25 & 26

Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:17-20

1. Are the biblical heroes really like us?
2. Can we stop and start the rain by praying?
3. Why is it important to bring a brother or sister back from sin? Why are we reluctant to confront others about their sins?

Mon. Nov 29

Read, Meditate, Respond to 5:1-20 review

1. Where do you hear echoes of Leviticus 19:9-18 in these verses?
2. In what ways are patience and prayer related?
3. Do the last two verses seem to be a suitable ending for the letter? Why do you think James ends so abruptly?

★ Tue. Nov 30

Group Study @ 6:30, in person and on Zoom