

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

- a. Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.
- b. Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.
- c. Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson: Eight

Day One: Read James 3, concentrating on verses 1 and 2.

1. What is the warning in verse 1?
 - a. Matthew 5:19
 - b. Matthew 18:6
 - c. Romans 14: 10-12.
2. Why would the brothers desire to be teachers? Read the following passages.
 - a. Matthew 5:19
 - b. Matthew 18:6
 - c. Romans 14: 10-12.
3. What is the judgment of which James writes? See the following passages to determine why and how a teacher is judged:
 - a. 1 Timothy 3:7

b. Luke 20: 45-47

c. Matthew 23: 13-33.

4. May we use this passage as a reason/excuse not to teach?

5. List some situations in which you are the teacher.

Day Two: Reread verse 2.

1. In verse 2a, what is our sinful condition? What does the word stumble (or your version's translation for this word) mean?

2. In verse 2b, how is in stumbling is connected to teaching?

3. How is the perfect man described?

4. What do these two verses have to say about the power of speech?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Day Three: Read James 3: 3-6.

1. List the three word pictures for the tongue used here.
2. How do these metaphors illustrate the great power of speech?
3. Make a list of the all the things in which James says: "the tongue is."

Day Four: Read James 3: 5-12. Concentrating on verse 6, consider how speech does the following:

1. Stains the whole body
2. Sets on fire the entire course of life.
3. Set on fire by hell.

Day Five: Read James 3: 7-9. What do the following passages have to say about the tongue:

1. Psalm 58:4

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Psalm 140:3

3. Romans 3:13-14

Day Six: Personal/Challenge: When are you a public speaker? What fires may be set in personal conversation, posting on Facebook or casual meetings?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Nine: Further thoughts on taming the tongue

Day One: Reread James 3 1-12

1. We have discussed the power of the tongue especially for evil. Make a list from this passage of what the tongue can produce for both good and evil.
2. Where is the source of evil speech?
3. What is James' conclusion about evil, uncontrolled speech (see verse 10b)?

Day Two: In verse 4, James speaks of a ship guided by the will of the pilot. What do the following verses have to say concerning the will?

1. Matthew 12:50
2. 1 Peter 4: 1-2
3. Jeremiah 17:9
4. James 1:14

Day Three: What is the source of proper speech? Read Ephesians 4:17-32.

1. List what God does for us in this passage.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. List what we are not to do.

3. List what we are to do.
- 4.

5. What is the reason listed in Ephesians 4:32.

Day Four: We have been taught about submission and self-control. Make a connection between James teaching on the tongue and these two concepts. If you have studied Philippians, Hebrews or Titus with us, you may recall appropriate passages. Here's a hint: Titus 1-2.

Day Five: Read Romans 7:18-20.

1. What is our hope in the impossible task of taming the tongue?

2. What good first step is described in 2 Corinthians 10:5?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Ten: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, Proverbs 1:7.

Day One: Read James 3:3-18 and refer back to James 1:5.

1. Define wisdom.
2. What is the difference between being smart or intelligent and being wise?
3. This section follows directly on an admonition about teaching and the tongue. How would wisdom be reflected and demonstrated in teaching?

Day Two: Wisdom from above contrasted with earthly wisdom.

1. Make of list actions/behaviors that show wisdom or what wisdom produces. (In James we are particularly concerned about works that exhibit faith. Faith is a firm conviction → personal surrender → life evidence.)
2. Make a second list of actions/behaviors that are not from above.
3. Now explain the end products of these two "wisdoms".

Day Three: Read Galatians 5: 16-25

1. Compare this passage to what we have just read in James.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. What do James (in previous chapters) and Galatians have to say about law?
3. How do these passages compare on the subject of works and what our works demonstrate?

Day Four: Getting to the root.

1. What is at the root of unwise behavior?
2. What grows out of this root?
3. Define jealousy and ambition.
4. Which of the 10 commandments might apply to these?

Day Five:

1. What is the harvest of in verse 18?
2. Challenge: find verses that speak of righteousness, peace or peace makers that support this verse.
3. Who sows the seed that produces the harvest?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson: Eleven

Day One: Read James 3:17 through 4:19 as an overview.

1. List the main themes of James 4.
2. How does this chapter build on the previous chapters of James 1, 2 and 3. Make a list.

Day Two: Concentrate on James 4:1

1. The Greek word for "passions" in verse one is literally "pleasures". Read verse 1 substituting pleasures for passions. Look up definitions of passion and pleasure. Does change how you think about the meaning of this verse?
2. External fights are caused by internal warfare. Who or what is at war here?
3. Do we know what fights or quarrels are occurring within the James audience of believers?

Day Three: The progression of sin. Concentrate on James 4:2-3

1. Make a list of actions and results in these verses. How does one lead to another?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Using your list, explain the connection between each one, for example desire and murder. (Is this literal murder?)

Day Four: Read Luke 15:11-16. Does this parable shed any light on our desires or desire for pleasure?

Day Five: Personal/Challenge: Read Luke 15: 17-22. We may not see much of ourselves in the prodigal son but how much might we resemble his brother?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Twelve:

Day One: Concentrate on James 4:4

1. Why does James call them "adulterous" people?
2. What does adultery have to do with the previous verses 1-3?
3. Read the following passages that refer to adultery: Isaiah 57:3, and Matthew 12:39. (Remember that marriage is a common biblical image of the covenantal relationship between God and his people.)

Day Two:

1. What is friendship with the world?
2. Why does it make you an enemy to God?
3. What does friendship with the world have to do with James 4: 1-3?

Day Three: Read James 4:5-10.

1. There is no specific verse to which James make reference in verse 5. Refer to Exodus 34:14 and Deuteronomy 4:24 concerning God's jealousy.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Verse 5 may also refer to the new spirit he creates in us. Read the following passages: Psalm 51:10 and 1 Peter 3:18.
3. What is the promise in verse 6 that gives us confidence in our spiritual warfare?

Day Four:

1. What further promises does God make in verses 6-10?
2. Compare the commands and assurances in verses 6-10.
3. What are our key responses that help protect against fighting and quarrels?
4. Read Romans 8: 37 in light of this passage.

Day Five: Personal/Challenge. In what areas of your life do you need assurance that you have become a conqueror? Pray for yourself and others who may seem to be fighting a losing spiritual battle.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Thirteen: Read James 4: 11-17

Day One:

1. Make a list that connects the ideas in verses 11-12 to the previous chapters/topics in James.
2. Verses 11-12 have another logical progression. Where does speaking evil against a brother lead us?
3. What power does the one lawgiver and judge have?

Day Two

1. What does it mean to "judge the law"? What is the law to which James refers? Look back to James' previous statements concerning the law.
2. Explain the difference between judging the law and church discipline.
3. Who are you to judge? Read Romans 2:1-5.

Day Three:

1. What is the example of worldly wisdom in James 4:13-14?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

2. Read Luke 12:13-21. Relate this parable to the passage in James.
3. What is the error present in both passages?
4. Is it wrong to make plans for the future?
5. Compare verse 14b with James 1:10b-11.

Day Four: Concentrate on James 4:16-17.

1. Personal/challenge: Psalm 90 is often read or preached around the time of the New Year. Reread Psalm 90 as a reality check on your life and priorities.
2. Define arrogance.
3. What are sins of omission and commission? Verse 17 speaks of knowing right but failing to do it. John Calvin says in a commentary on this passage, "he (James) alleges against them this knowledge in which they gloried, and declares that they sinned more grievously, because they did not sin through ignorance, but through contempt."

Day Five: Find Biblical references that answer the following questions.

1. What is your life?
2. What should we boast about?
3. Should you make plans without taking God's plan into consideration?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Fourteen: Read James 5, the final chapter!

Day One:

1. Read James 5
2. What are the three main topics of this chapter?
3. How does James 5 continue the thought of chapter 4?

Day Two: Concentrate on James 5:1-6.

1. Compare James 5:1 with James 1:9-10 and James 4:7-10. What are the connecting ideas?
2. Who are the rich addressed in verse 1? Inside or outside the body of believers?
3. What does James instruct the oppressive rich to do?

Day Three:

1. List the judgments God has in store for them.
2. List the reasons that they are deserving of judgment in verses 2-3, 4, and 6.

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

3. Explain the biblical perspectives on these crimes.
4. Who is the judge?

Day Four:

1. James says that the rich have preyed on the poor in "these last days".
2. What and when are the last days? Try to give a clear explanation.
3. Read Hebrews 1:1-2 and 2 Peter 3:1-10 for more commentary on the last days. Summarize what you learned.

Day Five: Personal: It is very easy to disregard warnings to the rich. We aren't rich or are we? What are your ideas about having and using "disposable" income?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Fourteen:

Day One: Read James 5:7-12.

1. The word, "then" or "therefore" in verse 7 indicates that the churches are suffering. What does James encourage them to do? (Look back at James 1:2-3).
2. Are we to be patient with only in suffering? What are other occasions of patience?
3. James now uses an illustration of patience. What is the illustration and how does it give reason for patience?

Day Two:

1. What attributes of God can you find in these verses? List them.
2. Challenge: Can you find a promise or description, chapter and verse, which encourages us to be patient because of the final reward?

Day Three:

1. What is the second illustration given in James 5:10?
2. Take a look at Jeremiah as an example of the prophets. What do you learn from the following passages:

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

- a. Jeremiah 20:1-2
- b. Jeremiah 32:2-3
- c. Jeremiah 38:4-6

Day Four:

1. There is a third illustration in James 5:11. Who is this person and what new word is used to describe his response to suffering.
2. Use your knowledge of Job to show how he was steadfast (or persevered).
3. What is the conclusion to Job's suffering? What did Job confess? Job 42:1-9.

Day Five:

1. What is the final instruction of this passage?
2. Does refer to cursing or vulgarity? Oaths taken in court? Is there a proper time to swear?
3. What did Jesus have to say in Matthew 5:34-37?
4. How does this tie into what we have learned about the tongue?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

Before you begin each day:

Pray asking God to speak to you through His Resident Teacher.

Use your Bible only unless otherwise noted.

Write your answers and verses you have used.

Challenge/Personal questions are if you have time and desire, and to be shared only if you wish.

Lesson Fifteen: The prayer of faith

Day One: Read James 5:13-20

1. Is there a special "prayer of faith? Note: this passage is used as justification of the Roman Catholic sacrament of extreme unction (last rites).
2. How would you define a prayer of faith? Give references.

Day Two: How are we to respond when:

1. Suffering
2. Cheerful/happy
3. Sick
4. Sinful

Day Three:

1. Look into the example of Elijah. Read 1 Kings 17:1-2 and 1 Kings 18:1, 41-46.
2. How could Elijah be a righteous man and also a man "with a nature like ours"?

James: Women's Bible Study: Fall 2014

3. Elijah received direct instructions on when and what to pray. How can we pray as Elijah without receiving a direct word from God? Look back to James 1:6.

Day Four:

1. What does wandering from the truth mean?
2. Why would one wander from the truth? Read the following verses:
 - a) Proverbs 19:27
 - a) 1 Timothy 6:10
 - b) 1 Timothy 6:20-21
3. What is our duty when someone wanders?

Day Five: What covers a multitude of sins? Read the following passages.

1. 1 Peter 4:8
2. Psalm 32:1
3. Matthew 18:15
4. Luke 22:31-34

Challenge/personal: Reread the book of James recalling Jan Robb's React/Respond Equation:

React → Discern → Respond
Emotions Intellect Will