

STUDY 1
TEMPTATION'S TRIAL

READ JAMES 1:1-18

1. James uses one word in referring to trials, testing and temptation (see vs. 2-3; 12-14). In your understanding, what are the differences among them? What are the similarities?

	Trials	Testing	Temptation
Similarities			
Differences			
Biblical Examples			

2. James audience is composed of Jews “*scattered among the nations*”. What trials would they have endured? (see Acts 8:1-4; 11:19-21)

3. What are some of the many kinds of trials and temptations that Christians face? What are some that you have dealt with in the last few months?

4. The text gives a command to “*consider it pure joy whenever you face trials.*” According to the verses that follow, what are the advantages of trials that might enable us to consider them joyful?

5. What help and encouragement does God provide for those who are being tested? (see 1:5ff)

6. What is perseverance? What are its benefits? (vs.. 3,4,12)

7. What does the paragraph about rich and poor people (vs. 9-11) say about going through difficult circumstances?

8. How does the promise of reward make enduring trials easier?

9. Who is responsible for our temptation? Why do we tend to blame others? Satan? God?

10. How can understanding the process of temptation to sin help us have victory when we face it? (vs.. 13-16)

11. Verses 16-18 begins with an injunction to avoid being deceived. What can we be deceived of in relation to trials and temptation that these verses provide an answer for?

MEMORY VERSES

Consider it pure Joy. my brothers. whenever you face trials of many kinds. because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. James 1:2&3

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial. because when he has stood the test. he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

STUDY 2
HEARING BY DOING

READ JAMES 1:19-27

1. Fifteen times in his book, James uses the word “*brothers*” (var. my brothers, my dear brothers). What does this say about James’ message?

2. Why should “*everyone*” cultivate their listening habits and be hesitant to speak?

3. How can we practically learn to do that? Is it easier for some than others?

4. How does anger prevent righteous living?

5. What is “*man’s anger*”? How can we learn to “*slow down*” our anger?

6. What is the moral filth and evil that James says is so prevalent?

7. What is the word planted in us? How can it save us?

8. Why is it important to listen to the word? What are some avenues for us to do that?

9. James’ suggestion in verse 22 seems to indicate that is fairly easy to deceive ourselves into thinking we are doing right by listening to God’s word, when we are not actually doing “*what it says*.” What are some danger signs in our text that might alert us to that possibility? Are there any other signs?

10. How does the analogy about a man looking at his face in a mirror illustrate James' previous point? How does it illustrate our own experience in relation to scripture?

11. How can we strengthen our ability to "*look intently*" into the Word and apply it? (See Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:11)

12. How does God's word bring freedom in our lives?

13. Why does the use of the tongue seem to be so strongly linked to pure religion and doing God's word? (1:19,26)

14. In general terms, what two things mark "*pure and faultless religion*" in the sight of God?

15. Who are the needy in our world? How can we look after them?

16. What do we often substitute in our lives for acts of mercy and personal purity?

MEMORY VERSES

Therefore get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says! James 1:21-22

STUDY 3
FAVOURITISM IN THE FAMILY

READ JAMES 2:1-13

1. The original authors of scripture did not have chapter and verse divisions. How does this text relate to the section preceding it?

2. How is showing favouritism incompatible with faith in Jesus Christ? (2:1)

3. How do children show favouritism? Adults? Christians?

4. James' illustration of favouritism in the local church is centred on a place to sit. What are some ways we may be guilty of showing favouritism?

5. James has noticed a situation where Christians are discriminating against those who are poor in favour of those who are financially well-off. In what ways do we ostracize those who are poor in our community? In our Church community?

6. According to verse four, what are we actually doing when we show favouritism?

7. How can a lack of financial resources make a person "*rich in faith*?"

8. What is God's view of the needy in our world? How should that affect our actions?

9. What three questions does James ask in verses 6 & 7 that point out why the rich should not be favoured?

10. Why is it the rich who exploit people? This being the case, why do people tend to favour the rich?

11. What royal law does James refer to in his argument against favouritism?

12. What do verses 9 - 11 say about showing favouritism? About any sin?

13. How will the believer be judged for failing to show mercy? (see also; Matthew 18:32-35)

14. How does mercy triumph over judgment?

MEMORY VERSES

If you really keep the royal law found in scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself" you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. James 2:8-10

STUDY 4
FAITH WORKS

READ JAMES 2:14-26

1. What is the significance of the word “*claims*” in verse 14? (“*says*”in NASB & NKJV)

2. What does the word “*save*” mean in the context of verse 14? Look at its other usages in the book of James (1:21; 2:14; 4:12; 5:15,20).

3. What can we be saved from other than final judgment in Hell?

4. James asks a rhetorical question in 2:15-16 and answers it by saying that faith without actions is of no good; it is dead. What does he mean by “*dead*?”

5. Verse 18 contains the statement of an imaginary objector. Charles Ryrie says about this statement, “*Justification by faith is necessary in the court of heaven. justification by works is the only thing people can observe in the court on earth.*” How does Ryrie’s statement help us understand the balance between faith & works in this verse?

6. What is James attacking in verse 19?

7. James, in 2:23, quotes from Genesis 15:1-6. The story that he refers to, however, takes place in Genesis 22:1-12. How was Abraham made righteous? What role did the offering of Isaac play? (See also, Romans 4:1-3, 20-24 & Hebrews 11:17-19)

8. According to verse 24, "a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone." In what way do a person's actions justify him?

9. Rahab is "*considered*" righteous by her actions (v. 25), Abraham is similar (v. 21). What is the role of the word, "*considered*?"

10. Abraham, as the father of Judaism, seems to be a good example. Why do you think James also refers to Rahab, who was a prostitute?

11. How is faith without works dead?

MEMORY VERSES

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:14. 26

STUDY 5
THE UNTAMED TONGUE

Read James 3:1 -12

1. Is James warning people not to proceed into teaching positions?

2. In what way will those who teach be judged more strictly? (cf. Matthew 12:36, 37)

3. How does controlling our tongue affect our ability to control other areas of our life? (see v. 2)

4. In vs.. 3 - 6, James uses three analogies to convey the nature of the tongue.
What is the tongue?
How are bits, rudders, and sparks like the tongue?

5. How does the tongue corrupt the whole person? (v. 6)

6. What message do vs. 6 & 8 convey to the Christian who desires to live in purity?

7. If no one can tame the tongue, why should we even try?

8. In what ways does the tongue poison people and relationships? (vs. 8b)

9. What does verse 9 convey about human nature?

10. “*Praise*” talk is not a problem, but it is if it is coupled with ungodly talk, there is a problem. If your friends and family were to report on your “*talking*”, what would they say?

What would your “*enemies*” say?

What would God say?

11. What are some of the many ways (v. 2) that we stumble in the use of our tongue? Be specific to your own stumblings?

12. How can we practically work at taming our own tongues?

MEMORY VERSE

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole source of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. James 3:6

STUDY 6
THE BATTLE OF DESIRES

Read James 3:13 - 4:12

1. What is James linking with wisdom in verse 13?

2. What is devoid of wisdom? (v. 14)

3. Why would those with selfish ambition or envy boast? How would they be denying the truth?

4. How do those two same qualities contribute to “*disorder and every evil practice?*”

5. What qualities comprise heavenly wisdom? How can these qualities help us in decision-making?

6. What is the significance of 3:18 in relation to 4:1-12?

7. What causes fights and quarrels between believers? (vs.. 1-3)

8. How do verses 4 & 5 illustrate spiritual adultery? (cf. Hosea 2:4 and Matthew 6:24)

9. In what ways do we seek friendship with the world?

10. How does submitting to God relate to solving the fights and quarrels mentioned in the first verse?

11. What is the relationship between our attitudes about others and the law?

**ANYONE WHO
SPEAKS AGAINST / SPEAKS AGAINST
HIS BROTHER / THE LAW
OR / AND
JUDGES HIM / JUDGES IT.**

12. Define judging your neighbour? Does this mean we are not to be discerning about sin in others? Does this mean we should never speak to someone about spiritual problems?

MEMORY VERSES

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 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. James 3:16-47

STUDY 7
THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE

Read James 4:13 - 5:12

1. What are the people referred to in vs 13 & 14 presuming about their lives?

2. How is our life like a mist? How should that change our perspective?

3. How is this person's attitude boasting or bragging?

4. How does verse 17 relate to the previous discussion?

5. What is James attitude toward wealthy people? (cf. 1:9-11 & 2:1-17)

6. How does wealth bring the possibility of a corrupting influence?

7. How does v. 7ff relate to James 1:1-18?

8. Why are we to be patient in the face of suffering? How does Job's perseverance give us a better perspective?

9. How does the story of the farmer illustrate James' point?

10. When will our need for perseverance be over? How does that provide hope?

11. When faced with suffering and other aspects of life, what does God want us to learn about Himself? (as a partial answer, see v. 11)

12. How does verse 12 relate to the previous passage?

MEMORY VERSES

You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door. James 5:8-9

STUDY 8
PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Read James 5:13-20

1. What role does prayer play in most people's lives?

2. Which is more difficult, praying when in troubling circumstances or in happy times? Why is that so?

3. Why would God ask us to be committed to prayer and praise? How does prayer affect someone in trouble and praise affect someone who's happy?

4. What does James mean when he says to "*sing songs of praise*"? What role should music play in our private Christian lives? Is there any danger to just listening to Christian music rather than singing it?

5. What is the role of church leadership in praying over a sick person? Whose initiative is required? (cf. Acts 6:2-4)

6. What is the significance of anointing with oil? Is it applicable today?

7. What does verse 15 say about the power of prayer? Is it a guarantee that a person will be made well?

8. How does the sentence about forgiveness of sin relate to the context? What problems and possible answers does it pose?

9. What role does confession of sin before others play in the life of the church? In personal faith and growth?

10. Verse 16 in the NKJV says, "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" What then, is the precursor to prayer that accomplishes a lot? How does the life of Elijah illustrate that fact?

11. Explain James' epilogue in verses 19-20. In what ways can we help bring back those who have fallen away? What benefits are reaped?

12. Pick one truth application that has really challenged you from our study in James. Describe its significance to the rest of your group and spend a few minutes praying for each other in the areas brought up.

MEMORY VERSES

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16