

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #10
Study Guide

James

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www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote this book as a practical guide to Christian living. It was written primarily to Jewish Christians, many of whom were suffering persecution.

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

James 1:2-4

1. What is conflicting about experiencing *joy* in the time of trials?
2. How does testing produce perseverance? Why would anyone want to persevere?
3. What is one area where you have been trying to persevere?
4. How have you matured as a follower of Christ through this time of perseverance?

James 2:1-12

1. What kinds of things make you favor one person more than another?
2. Why is breaking one law as serious as breaking every law?
3. Who has the authority to judge?
4. What is the message for you from this scripture as to how you should treat, or judge, others?

James 3:3-8

1. What images does James use to show the power of words?
2. How do these images serve as a warning for how we use our words?
3. Describe a time when the words of another person had a lasting negative impact on you. What is it about hurtful words that makes it so hard to “forgive and forget?”
4. What is one practical way you have learned to tame your own tongue?

James 5:13-16

1. What are some of the motives for prayer in this scripture?
2. What are some of the prayer resources that James suggests?
3. How does confession to trusted brothers and sisters bring cleansing and healing?
4. How can your small group members, or friends, pray for you?

Key Themes:

1. Faith without actions means nothing.
2. Peace will come from trusting God in time of trial.
3. The tongue can do great damage – believers should be careful what they say.
4. God shows no partiality to rich or poor, and believers should do the same.

Reflection

The book of James is as powerfully practical and as relevant today as it was for the Jewish Christians at the time it was written. It addresses many of the core issues of life. Reflect on how the way you lead your life, your *actions*, might reveal a transformed life.

Prayer:

Read the following scripture again:

James 5:16

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.

James makes this bold statement in the context of believers praying for each other's healing. This is as essential today as it was in the early church. As you go through your day today, make note of the needs of others. If you need to, write them down on a piece of paper, or on your computer, as a reference. At the end of the day, pray *earnestly*, for these people, with faith that God hears and God heals!

Homework

Read **James 2:14-26**, in preparation for the sermon on June 18/19, "*Prove It!*" Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections: