

# *INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY*

*James*



**Jesus Only Way**  
Ministries

## **Lesson One—Overview**

### **Day One & Day Two**

- Read through the Book of James in one sitting without interruption
- Do not try to figure out what the author is saying
- Simply read as you would read a book
- Write down any thoughts that you have
- Record your first impressions
  
- Read through James again
- Glean all you can about the author & recipients
- Ask Questions: Who, What When, Where, Why, & How
  - Who is the author? How does he describe himself? Who are the recipients? Is the author writing to Christians, non-Christians, or both?
  
- What type of literature is the book of James?
  - Historical, biographical, poetry, philosophical, doctrinal, letter, or prophecy

### **Day Three**

- Read through James & mark key words that are used repeatedly
- Read through James again
- Look for a statement that is made or an instruction that is given
- Look for a subject that is more predominant than others
- Record the main theme of the book on the "James at a Glance" chart
- Look for James' purpose for writing

### **Day Four & Day Five**

- Read through James
- Record the chapter themes on the "James Chapter Theme" chart

## **Lesson Two—Chapter One**

### **Day One**

### **Day Two &**

### **Day Three**

- Read James 1 & Mark key words
- Write down any questions of interpretation you may have
- Ask Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How
  - Whom is James speaking to? About what is he speaking? When will something happen? Where will it happen? Why was it said? How was or how is it done?
- Make a list of what you observe about each key word
- What is the principal subject with which James deals in this chapter?
  - List your insights
- Look for contrasting words and phrases
  - Words of comparison, terms of conclusion, and expressions of time
- Personal Application: What is the Spirit of God showing you?

### **Day Four**

- Read James 1 again
- Look for key words, key phrases, lists, contrasts, or comparisons
- List questions you have about the meaning of the text
- Summarize what God has revealed to you

### **Day Five**

- Read James 1 again
- How should we handle trials?
- Take time this day and think on what God is talking about in this chapter
- Ask God to change the way you handle trials

## **Lesson Three—Chapter 1:1-12**

### **Day One**

- Look up the following words in your concordance & expository dictionary
- Write out the definition
  - Various (divers, KJV)---James 1:2
  - Trials (temptations, KJV)---James 1:2
  - Testing (trying, KJV)---James 1:3
  - Endurance (patience, KJV)----James 1:3, 4
  - Perfect----James 1:4
  - Complete (entire, KJV)---James 1:4
  
- Answer the questions below
- According to verses 2-4, how do "trials/temptations" relate to one's faith?
- What are "trials/temptations" meant to produce in a person's life?
- What is to be the end product of a trial in a believer's life?
- What is the believer's responsibility in all of this?
- What will happen if a believer does not handle a trial according to God's instructions in verses 2-4?
  
- List some various types of trials/temptations that a Christian may face
  - What have you faced that has tested your faith?

### **Day Two**

- Look up the three cross-references to James 1:2-12 below
- See what you learn about trials/temptations
  - Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 1:6-9, 1 Peter 4:12-13

### **Day Three & Day Four**

- Read James 1:5-8
  - Is there any relationship between these verses & James 1:2-4?
  - If so, what? How? Why? If not, why not?
- Write your insights down
  
- According to James 1:5-8, if you lack wisdom you are to ask of God
  - Why should you ask God? Why not ask man?
  - To whom do you usually turn in a time of temptation or trial?

## **Day Three & Day Four Continued**

- Look up the following verses & note how these relate to James 1:5
  - Romans 11:33-36, Daniel 2:20-23, Job 12:13.16, Isaiah 9:6
- According to James 1:5-8, when you go to God for wisdom,
  - What will be God's response?
  - Are there any conditions that must be fulfilled on your part?
  - If so, what are they?
- Look up "doubts" (wavereth, KJV) in a concordance or expository dictionary
  - Write out how it compare to faith

The verb "doubts" in verse 6 is in the present tense in the Greek and, therefore, means that "doubting" is something that is ongoing. It is not a single instance but rather a continuous action on the subject's part.

- Look up the following verses
- Record what you learn about faith & how it relates to James 1:5-8
  - Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 11:6
- Faith is synonymous with belief
- Look up "belief" (pisteuo) in W.E. Vine's dictionary
- Record the definition
- Include what it says about the three elements of faith
- Look up the following cross-references
- How do they relate to James 1:5-8?
  - Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 11:22-24
- According to James 1:5-8
- How would you explain a double-minded man?
- Does a double-minded man have legitimate excuses?
- Explain your response
- List specific personal things that God has taught you today

## **Day Five**

You may now read your commentaries on James 1:2-8  
Do not go any further

## **Lesson Four—Chapter 1:1-12 & 1:13-17**

### **Day One**

- Read James 1:2-12
- Answer the following questions
  - What do James 1:2 & James 1:12 have in common?
  - Do you see any relationship between verses 9-11 & "trials"?
  - Explain your answer
  - What is contrasted in verses 9-11?
  - What would be the exhalation or high position of a brother in humble circumstances?
  - How does Christianity exalt a person?
  - Do you see any correlation between this and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31?
  - When James refers to the rich man in verse 10, do you think he is referring to a saved rich man or to a lost rich man?
  - Why?
- Read Acts 2:44-45 & Acts 4:32-35
- Can you tell from these verses whether or not there were rich & poor in the early church?
- Explain your answer

### **Day Two**

Look up the following words in a concordance & expository dictionary  
Record their transliterations & definitions

Blessed  
Perseveres (endureth, KJV)  
Approved (tried, KJV)

From James 1:12, answer the following questions

What man is blessed?

What will the man receive?

When will he receive it?

What makes the man endure or persevere under trial?

Read Matthew 5:10-12 & Luke 6:20-25

Write how they parallel, amplify, or illustrate James 1:2-12

## Day Two Continued

- Look up the following references in a concordance and expository dictionary
  - James 1:12---Look up the Greek word for "crown"
  - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27---Look up the Greek word for "disqualified" (castaway, KJV)---What word in James 1:12 is similar to it?
  - 2 Timothy 4:8---Note the word "award" (give, KJV) with regard to the crown. Compare this with 2 John 8
  - 1 Peter 5:4—Look up the Greek word for "crown"
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20---Look up the Greek word for "crown"
  - Revelation 2:10---Look up the Greek word for "crown"
  - Revelation 3:11---Look up the Greek word for "crown"
  - Revelation 4:10-11---Look up the Greek word for "crown"

In Revelation, John saw the twenty-four elders cast their crowns before the Lord. If you were to stand before God's throne, would you have any crowns to cast at His feet? Why would you have them? Answer this by noting what the crowns were given for. From the Scriptures you have studied on crowns, is there anything that you can do that would assure you of one or more crowns? Answer this last question specially.

## Day Three

- For the remainder of the week we are going to focus on James 1:13-17
- We will focus from outward trials to the inward temptations

If you are a person who struggles greatly with inward lusts, may you see, through this study, that there is a way of escape.

- Compare James 1:2-3, 12 with James 1:13-17
- Note James' instructions or comments regarding each meaning of trials/tempt
- What is the difference between the trials of James 1:2-12 and being tempted in James 1:13-17
- Look at his instructions and/or lack of them

**Trials (Peirasmos) James 1:1-12**

**To Tempt (Peirazo) James 1:13-17**

--	--

## Day Three Continued

- Do a word study on each of the following words
  - Lust—James 1:14
  - Carried away (drawn away, KJV)---James 1:14
  - Enticed---James 1:14
  - Conceived---James 1:15
  - Sin---James 1:15
  - Accomplished (Finished, KJV)---James 1:15
  - Death----James 1:15

## Day Four

- Why would a person say "I am tempted of God?"
- Look at the following passages—See what you can conclude from them
  - Proverbs 19:3
  - Genesis 3:9-13

(See Preceding verses---How were Adam & Even indirectly blaming God for what they did?)

- Answer the following questions
  - When people do what is wrong, are they usually willing to accept the blame or the responsibility for what they have done? Are you?
  - How do people tend to excuse their wrongs?
  - List the various ways in which they excuse themselves
- Think back to the trials of James 1:2-12
  - When people go through trials and they do not count it all joy or they do not hupomeno (abide under), what are their alternative reactions?
  - List them
  - When people do not obey God's Word, when they do not count it all joy, persevere, and become more mature, when they refuse to let God's Spirit control them, then what is apt to control them? How does this fit with James 1:12-15?
    - List the progression in James 1:14-15
    - Refer back to the Word studies in Day Three
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13
- List how it pertains to the trials/temptations of James 1
  - Do you think James 1:16-17 relates to verses 13-15? How?
- What have you learned that you can apply practically?

## **Lesson Five—Chapter 1:18-27**

### **Day One & Two**

- Read James 1:18-27
- Note each reference to the word "word"
- What does the text say about the "word"?
  
- Read James 1:18-27 again
- Look for the first "therefore" (wherefore KJV) after verse 19
- What do you think the "therefore" relates to?
- Does the "therefore" refer to what precedes it or to what follows it?
- Write out your answer, fully explaining why you take the position that you do.

### ***Let's reason together concerning what James possibly is doing in the second half of chapter 1.***

In James 1:15 we find that when "lust has conceived", it "gives birth to" (bringeth forth, KJV) (*tikto*) sin; and when sin is accomplished, it "brings forth" (bringeth forth, KJV) (*apokueo*) death. Thus, we see conception and birth. In James 1:18, we find another conception and another birth. God, by His will, "brought us forth" (begat us, KJV) with the word of truth. According to the best manuscripts, "begat us" is *apekuesen*. This is the same root of the verb used in the phrase "sin brings forth death." Here we seem to have a subtle but intentional contrast: sin bringing forth death, but God (who is righteous in contrast to sin) bringing forth life! Sin is conceived through man who, by his own will, yields to lust. We believers, a kind of first fruits of His creatures, are conceived by God's will through His Word. Think about it.

In verse 18, James, in his subtle contrast of births, turns us to a new topic: the Word of God. We know that it is a new topic and not merely a passing reference to "word" because the "word" is not dropped with verse 18, but it is elaborated upon all of the way through at least verse 23. However, the question is, Does James finish discussing the "word" in verse 23? What does James mean by "the perfect law" in verse 25?

- Read verses 23-25
- What is "the perfect law" according to these verses?

### **Day Three**

What did James mean when he said that they were to be "quick" to hear? Remember that this Epistle (letter) was addressed to Jews, and it is thought to be the earliest of the Epistles. The New Testament was not yet compiled. Paul's writings were not circulating among the churches at that time. The Jews did not have ready access to copies of the Old Testament as did the scribes and Pharisees. Therefore,

what they were taught, they heard through public readings and oral instruction. Thus, James was commanding them to be swift to hear, to listen eagerly and attentively. They were not to shut their ears, to make hasty evaluations, or to get angry.

Let's take a minute and look at just a few Scriptures that show how the Word was proclaimed in the days of the early church. As you read them, look at the various responses of the hearers, for it will help you understand James' concern. Write out these Scriptures, noting how the Word was proclaimed.

- Acts 2:42; 11:25-26; 17:1-5; 17:11; 28:23-28
- Look up "anger" (wrath, KJV) in a concordance & expository dictionary
- Summarize what your responsibility toward the Word should be

When you hear the word taught and you agree or disagree with what is being said, what is to be your response?

## **Day Four**

- Read James 1:21-27
- List what you are responsible to do as a child of God (be personal.. I am to .....
- Look up the following words in the concordance & expository dictionary
  - Filthiness---James 1:21
  - All that remains of wickedness (superfluity of naughtiness, KJV) James 1:21
  - Humility (meekness, KJV)---James 1:21
  - Souls---James 1:21
  - Implanted—James 1:21
- Read James 1:21 carefully
  - What is the Word able to do in your life?
  - What part do you play in its operation?

## **Day Five**

According to James 1:21, we are to "put aside" (lay apart, KJV) (aorist tense) all filthiness and all the remains of wickedness in our lives. Have you ever done that? Or are there things in your life that do not meet God's standard of purity? What are they? What would God point out to you? You are at the crossroads of being a hearer only or of being a doer also.

- How do verses 26-27 relate to verses 21-25?
- What does it mean to bridle your tongue? If you do not bridle your tongue, what does God think about your Christianity?

- Look up "visit" in a concordance or expository dictionary
- Write down its meaning (The verb is present tense)
  
- If you were to do what this verse says regarding caring for orphans and widows, would sending them money suffice? Explain
- What is your relationship to orphans and widows?
- What does it mean to keep oneself "unstained" (unspotted, KJV) by the world?
- Does it merely mean keeping a list of "dos and don'ts?"

## **Lesson Six—Chapter Two**

### **Day One Through Five**

- Read chapter two
- Mark key words
- Write down any questions of interpretation you may have

## **Lesson Seven—Chapter 2:1-3**

### **Day One & Two**

When you read the book of James, you almost wonder if James had a personal vendetta against the rich. However, since there are many verses in the Word of God on riches and the rich, we will look only at a representative group of Scriptures.

- Read the following passages
- Summarize the essence of each
  - Ecclesiastes 5:19; Psalm 52:1-7; Job 31:24-25, 28; Proverbs 18:11, 23; Jeremiah 17:11; Luke 12:15-21; Luke 16:13-14; Matthew 19:24; Mark 10:17-27; Proverbs 11:4, 28; Proverbs 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Mark 4:18-19; Deuteronomy 6:10-12; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19
  
- Write out your conclusions on what God has said in these passages on riches and being rich.

## Day Three

At this point, you need to do a little soul-searching about your attitude toward wealth. As you do, take the full hour to examine yourself

- What do you do with what you have?
- Where do you invest your money (treasures)?
- Is it where God wants done with His money (treasures)?
- How do you invest in the furtherance of the kingdom?
- What about your lifestyle?
- How temperate is it?
- What do you invest your time in?
- Temporal things...or eternal things?

## Day Four

- Read James 2:1-13
- In one sentence write what James' concern was in this passage?
- According to verse 8, what is the "royal law"?
- What does the "royal law" have to do with showing partiality?

Considering the fact that James' Epistle was addressed to Jewish Christians, answer the following questions

- Was this royal law a new law to them?
- Look up Mark 12:28-31
- Look up Leviticus 19:18
- Explain
- How important was this royal law in comparison with the 10 Commandments? (Exodus 20)?
- Answer this question from James 2:1-13 and from Romans 13:18-10.

Now that the Jews were Christians, were they not dead to the law and, therefore, released from it as Romans 7:1-6 says? Then, why was James talking to them about the law? Were they not under grace? Could they no live as they pleased? Think on these questions.

- Read the following Scriptures, noting next to each any insights that you gain
  - Romans 7:1-6; Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 6:1-2, 12-13; Romans 8:3-4; Jude 4

## Day Five

- Read the following verses, noting how they might be used to explain why James would refer to the Word of God as "the law of liberty."
  - Record your insights
    - John 8:31-32; John 12:47-48; James 1:25
  - Is God partial?
  - Is He a respecter of persons?
  - Look up the following Scriptures & note what each says
    - Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:23-25
  - What does God's perfect law of liberty say about partiality?
  - Look up the following Scriptures & write out your observations
    - Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:17; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; Psalm 82:1-4; Jeremiah 7:4-7; Ezekiel 22:29-31; Zechariah 7:8-10
  - How does partiality compare with showing honor?
  - Look at these Scriptures noting what we are to do
    - Romans 13:7
    - 1 Peter 2:17

If someone violates a law, a command, or a desire, what does that tell you about his attitude toward the one who made the law, gave the command, or expressed the desire?

## **Lesson Eight—Chapter 2:14-26**

### Day One

- Read James 2:14-26
- Write the essence of what you think James is saying
- Be precise
- Do you agree with what James is saying? Why or why not?
- James 2:14 opens with what two questions?
- Which of the following do you think James is talking about?
  - Faith or faith without works?
  - How to be saved or how your life will be if you are saved?
- How do you think the illustration of James 2:15-16 compares with what James says in the rest of this passage?
- According to James, what is a faith that has no works?
- What do you think James means by that expression? Why?
- How many times does James use that expression in verses 14-26?
- How many times does James use the words "show" & "see" in James 2:14-16?
- Do you think they have any particular significance? If so, what?

## Day Two

James says, "Faith without works is dead." Does the rest of Scripture support that statement?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

According to these verses, answer the following questions

How is man saved?

What part do a man's works play in bringing him into salvation?

Read Romans 6:4

How would newness of life relate to a faith without works?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

What do you think Paul meant when he said that "the old things passed away; behold, new things have come"?

Do you see any parallel between this verse and Romans 6:4? If so, what?

- Read Galatians 5:19-21
- What happens to those who "practice" these things?
- ("Practice" Verb---*prasso*---present tense---means to keep on doing continuously or as a habit of life)
- Read Ephesians 5:3-6
- How does this passage compare with Galatians 5:19-21?
- Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- How do these verses relate to what you have studied today?
- Do the Scriptures that you have studied today relate, in any way, to James 2:14-26; or do they contradict what James says? Explain your answer.

## Day Three

Read Matthew 7:13-29 (especially concentrate on verses 20-27)

Take this passage apart considering it in the light of James 2:14-26

Write what you think this passage in Matthew is teaching

Write how you think it does or does not correlate with James 2:14-26

## Day Four

When Martin Luther, after years and years of trying to be righteous before God by his own works, saw that "the just shall live by faith," he ceased from his works and entered into the kingdom of God by faith. He was a new creature.

Examine what Paul says in Romans & Galatians about justification which brings salvation

Read each passage below

Summarize its content

Romans 3:24, 28

Romans 4:2-3, 5 (When Paul says, "What does the Scripture say," he is referring to the Old Testament)

Genesis 15:6

Galatians 3:5-7

Write out a simple statement about Paul's teaching on justification according to Romans & Galatians

- According to Paul, what place do works have in Christianity?
- Read the following Scriptures
  - Ephesians 2:10, Galatians 5:6, Romans 1:5, Romans 16:25-26,
  - Titus 2:14, Titus 3:8
  - 2 Corinthians 13:5 (How would they test (examine, KJV) themselves?)
- Read James 2:19-26
  - When James says that Abraham was justified by works, does he mean that Abraham was saved at that point in time, or does he mean that Abraham was simply justified by his works? Look up the verb form of the word "justified" in an expository dictionary and see if "justified" always refers to the act of salvation.
- Read James 2:23
  - Did you notice that James quotes Genesis 15:6 even as Paul does in Romans 4:3 & in Galatians 3:6? Yet, what does James say about Genesis 15:6?
  - Look up "perfected" (James 2:22) in an expository dictionary
  - What do you learn?
- Read Hebrews 11:17
- Answer the following questions
  - How did Abraham offer up Isaac?
  - When did Abraham receive the promises?
  - Before Isaac was born or when he was called to offer up Isaac?
  - Was Abraham saved before offering Isaac?
  - Do you think James knew that? How?
  - According to Hebrews 11:17, what was happening to Abraham when he was called to offer up Isaac?
  - What was God testing?

## Day Five

To whom was James written?

What did every Jew know?

Every Jew knew the Shema (Pronounced shmah, it is Hebrew for "Hear")

The Shema is Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Look up verse 6 & write it out

## **Day five Continued**

- Read the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) carefully
- Can you find any part of the Shema, or any possible reference to it, in James 2:14-26?
- Write it out
- What is James doing?
- Ask God to show you if your faith is dead or if it is real
- Ask God to help you take stock of your salvation & to see what works are there that confirm the reality of the presence of Jesus Christ in your life
- Write down those works in your life that show to God & to others the reality of your faith
- If someone were to ask you, "How can I be saved?" how would you answer?
- Write as thorough an answer as is necessary to this vital question

## **Lesson Nine—Chapter Three**

### **Day One**

The tongue---that little member which can set on fire the course of your life

- Read Chapter Three
- Mark Key Words
- Make a List of what you learn

### **Day Two through Day Five**

- Read through Chapter Three
- Take time for prayer & meditation
- Ask God to show you how to put into practice what you learn this week

## **Lesson Ten—Chapter 3:1-18**

### **Day One**

One of our most crucial areas of failure as human beings is in the realm of communication. When we do speak, it is to hurl defensive words of our own temporal tents.

- Read through Chapter Three
- Divide it into topical subpoints
- How does James cover his subject?
- Where does James begin?
- With what areas does he deal?
- Where does he end?

### **Day Two**

- Look up the following Scripture references
- What do you learn regarding the gift of teaching & its purpose?
  - Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 12:27-29, Ephesians 4:11-16
- Look up the following Scripture references
- What is the teaching responsibility or role of every believer who will ever communicate spiritual truths to another?
  - Hebrews 5:12, 2 Timothy 2:24, Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20, 1 Peter 4:11
- Answer the following questions about 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
  - What is the foundation? Is there any other?
  - How does one build upon this foundation?
  - Primarily who would be the ones that would build upon the foundation?
  - How many types of building materials can be used?
  - What are they?
  - What makes these types different?
  - When is the "builder" held accountable?
  - How is his work judged?
  - What is the end result of the judgment?
  - Think of how fire would affect the types of building materials.
    - Record your insights
  - When a man builds, on whose temple is he working?
  - How serious is his work?
- Record your insights from the following Scriptures
  - 1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Ezekiel 22:26-28, Ezekiel 34:1-6, 1 Timothy 1:3-7
- Application---Summarize what you have learned today by way of doctrine, reproof, correction, or instruction in righteousness?

## Day Three

- From James 3, do you think James ever stumbled?
- How do you know?
- Do you think that James is excusing sin in his life?
- Do you think that James is excusing sin in others lives?
- Explain
- Look up the word "stumble" (offend, KJV)
- Write out its definition
- What does it mean that "stumble" is in the present tense?
- What does the phrase "we all" tell you?
- Look up the following Scriptures
- How do they relate to what James says about "us all" in James 3:2?
  - Ecclesiastes 7:20, 1 Kings 8:46, 1 Corinthians 4:4, 1 John 1:8
- Does the fact that we all stumble or sin become a means by which we can casually excuse our shortcomings?
- The word of "sin" is *hamartia* & means to miss the mark, to fall short
- Answer the above question from James 3:2
- Look up the word for "perfect" in James 3:2 in a concordance & expository dictionary
- Does this word mean to be totally perfect, that is, without sin?
- According to James 3:2
  - Is it possible to be a perfect man?
  - What makes a man perfect?
  - How does James 3:3-8 relate to James 3:2?

## Day Four

If the tongue is "a restless evil & full of deadly poison" and if no one can tame it (James 3:8), then how can we be perfect? What can we do about the tongue?

- Look at the following Scriptures for the answer to the above questions
  - Read James 3:9-18
  - Read Matthew 12:33-37
    - What do you learn from Matthew 12:33-37?
    - How does Matthew 12:33-37 compare to James 3:9-18?
- Read Matthew 15:18-20
  - Compare with all that you have seen up to this point
  - What can we do about the tongue so that we can become perfect?
- Look at the promise of the New Covenant in the following Scriptures
- Note how it pertains to what you previously saw
  - Ezekiel 36:26-27, Jeremiah 31:33, Jeremiah 32:39-40
- Read John 7:37-39
  - How does this relate to all that you have seen?
- Considering "A Faith That Works" as a theme of James, how does James 3 & what you have seen thus far relate to that theme?

## Day Five

- Review
- List what you have learned regarding the two types of wisdom Mentioned in James 3:14-17
- Look up the definition of each characteristic of the wisdom which is from James 3:14-17 in your Greek study tools
  - Pure, Peaceable, Gentle, reasonable (easy to be intreated, KJV), full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering (without partiality, KJV), without hypocrisy
- Application---Is there any hurtful way in you? What kind of water comes forth from your well? What are the usual characteristics of the wisdom that your tongue brings forth? Do you have a new heart?

## Lesson Eleven—Chapter Four & 4:1-4

### Day One through Day Three

Read Chapter 4  
Mark Key Words  
Make a list of what you learn

### Day Four

James asks a question & then seeks to answer by immediately asking a second question. Write these two questions out.

- Read James 4:1-12
- Keep in mind the author's theme, purpose, and to whom this Epistle was written
- Answer the following questions
  - Is James addressing believers?
  - Are they literally murdering or killing people?
  - Are these interpersonal conflicts, or is he speaking about literal wars between nations and/or people?
  - Why do these people not have what they desire?
  - When they ask or pray, why does God not give them what they ask for?
  - What is the basic problem of the people as revealed in James 4?
  - Where does the problem start?
  - How does it manifest itself?
  - What progression do you see here?

## Day Five

- Look up the following words in your Greek study tools
- Record the definition of each
  - Pleasures (lust, KJV)---James 4:1
  - Commit murder (kill, KJV)---James 4:2
  - Ask with wrong motives (ask amiss, KJV)---James 4:3
  - Spend (consume, KJV)---James 4:3
  - Friendship---James 4:4
  - Hostility (enmity, KJV)---James 4:4
- James 4:4 talks about "hostility toward" God. With that in mind---
- Answer the following questions
  - Who brings on this hostility----man or God?
  - How is this hostility caused?
  - What does James do when he talks about friendship with the world?
  - Is it a behavior, or is it an attitude? Or both?
- Cross-Reference to see what you can discover
- Look up "World" (James 4:4) in a concordance and/or expository dictionary
- Write the definition
  - Do you think James is saying that we are not to enjoy the beauty of our universe or world or the people in it? Explain your answer from the text.
  - How do a person's lusts relate to friendship with the world?

In looking at "friendship with the world" and what it means, look at Ephesians 2:1-2. In the phrase "course of this world," the Greek word *aion* is used for "course" and *kosmos* is used for "world." Look up the definitions for *aion* & *kosmos* and see if you can glean any further insight into "friendship with the world."

- Read Titus 2:12
- The word "worldly" is *kosmikos*. (The word "age" [world, KJV] is *aion*.)
- What do you see? Are there any possible parallels to James 4?
- Read John 15:18-21
- Read John 16:11
- Each reference to the "world" is *kosmos*.
- Record your insights
- Read 1 John 2:15-17
- (The Greek word for "world" in these verses is *kosmos*.)
- What do you see that relates to James 4?
- In Romans 12:2 the word for "world" is *aion*
- Do you think that this verse would pertain in any way to James 4?
- Explain
- Summarize what you think it means to be friends with the world.

## **Lesson Twelve—Chapter 4:4-12**

### **Day One**

- Read James Chapter 4
  - How do the first twelve verses relate to the theme of worldliness?
  - If one of God's children becomes a friend with the world, how does God label that child?
  - Why do you think God uses this term?
- Look up the following cross-references
- Record any pertinent insights that would shed light on God's use of this term
  - 2 Corinthians 11:2-3, Ephesians 5:23-32, Revelation 19:7-8
- Can a Christian commit spiritual adultery with impunity?
- Look up Ezekiel 6:9-10
- Write out the verse
  - How do you think a Christians; adultery affects God?

### **Day Two**

Four possibilities as to the intended meaning of James 4:5

1. The human spirit as the object of the main verb: "He [God] yearns enviously for the spirit which He caused to dwell in us." Then the meaning is that God, who placed man's spirit in him at creation, longs for its total loyalty & devotion to Him.
2. The divine Spirit as the object of the verb: "He [God] yearns enviously for the Spirit which He caused to dwell in us." But it is difficult to see how one Member of the Trinity should be pictured as enviously longing for another. This alternative is highly improbable.
3. The human spirit as the subject of the main verb: "The spirit which He made to dwell in us longs enviously." Then the meaning is that the human spirit, imparted at creation, longs perversely for enjoyment of the world's pleasures, even to the point of envy. Then James charges his readers with perverseness in being cool toward God while yearning for the world's pleasures.
4. The divine Spirit as the subject of the main verb: "The Spirit which He made to dwell in us yearns enviously." Then the meaning is that the Holy Spirit, imparted to us by God at conversion, yearns enviously for our total loyalty & devotion to Him. The incoming Holy Spirit, who sealed our redemption, justly claims our undivided love. He can brook no rival for our affection. The only reference to the Holy Spirit in this epistle is under the second & fourth views.

## Day Two Continued

- In view of the rebuke to worldliness that James is administering to his Christian readers, the last view seems most probable.
- Of all of the views, which would you favor?
- Why?

## Day Three

Read James 4:6

Under what conditions Does God supply grace?

To whom does God give this grace?

If you do not know what "humble" means, make sure that you look it up

Read James 4:7-10

Can you see any relationship between these verses & verse 6?

Explain how & why

## Day Four

- Read James 4:11-12
  - Is James finished with the topic of worldliness?
  - Do these verses in some way relate to those who would get caught up in their own lustful quests?
  - If any one speaks against his brother, what is he doing?
  - If one spoke against a brother, what law would he be speaking against?
- Read the following verses
  - Leviticus 19:15-18, Mark 12:31, Romans 13:8-10
  - What did the law command regarding our relationship to others?
- According to James 4:11, one is either a "doer of the law" or a "judge" of the law
  - What does James mean by this?
- Read Galatians 5:13-16
- Are there any parallels to James 4:1-12?
- Read James 4:11-12
- What is its relationship to the preceding verses in James 4?
- Look up the definition of the verb "to judge"
- Record its transliteration & definition
- James uses two other words for judging: *krites* & *kriterion*
- Look up "judgment seat" in an expository dictionary to find criterion
- Look up the man of each & write it out
- For review look up each reference to judging & judgment in the book of James
- As you look these up, note what each verse says regarding judgment
  - James 2:4, *krites*
  - James 2:6, *criterion* (translated "court," NASB)
  - James 2:12, *krino*
  - James 2:13, *krisis*

- James 4:11, *krion* (first three uses, *krites* (fourth use)
- James 4:12, *krites*, *krino*
- James 5:9, *krino*, *krites*

Another word, *diakrino*, which is translated "doubt", "judge," "contend," etc., is translated "doubting" (wavering, KJV) and "doubts" (wavereth, KJV) in James 1:6. In James 2:4, it is translated "made distinctions" (be partial, KJV)

- Summarize what you have learned about judging from James

## Day Five

- Read the following Scriptures
- Record your insights on judging
- All the following references use the Greek word *krino*
  - Hebrews 10:30, 1 Peter 1:17, 2:23, 1 Corinthians 11:31-32, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Colossians 2:16, Romans 14:3-4, Romans 14:10, Romans 14:13, John 12:48, Acts 4:19, 1 Corinthians 11:13, 1 Corinthians 5:3, 1 Corinthians 10:15, 1 Corinthians 10:29, Acts 16:14-15, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, John 3:17-18
- Matthew 7:1 is quoted many times by lost people
  - "Judge not, lest you be judged yourself"
  - What is Matthew really saying?
  - Read Matthew 7:1-6, 15-20 for the context
  - Record what you observe regarding judging
- What have you have learned from this study about judging

## Lesson Thirteen—Chapter 4:13-17

### Day One Through Day Two

- Read James Chapter 4
- Review previous lesson
- Before you met Christ, who determined how you would spend your time?
- Who planned your future?
- Now that you have come to know Christ as Lord & Savior, who determines how you spend your time?
- Who plans your future?
- Read James 4:13-17
- What is the problem that James confronts in these verses?
- How do you think these verses relate to what has gone before in James 4:1-2?
- Can you see any possible correlation?

- Look up the following Scriptures
- Record what God says that your length of days are like
  - James 4:14, James 1:10, Job 7:7, Psalm 102:11, Psalm 103:15-16,
  - 1 Samuel 20:3
- Look up the following Scriptures
- Who determines how long your will be?
  - Psalm 22:29, Psalm 31:15, Job 33:4, Job 34:14-15, Job 14:5,
  - Job 12:9-10, Psalm 139:16, Revelation 1:18
- Look up the following Scriptures
- What is to be your attitude toward life?
  - Proverbs 27:1, Psalm 31:14-15, Psalm 39:4-5

## **Day Four & Day Five**

- Read Luke 12:13-53
- Observe the text—Mark Key Words---Record what you learn
- Read through James 4:1-5:11
- List any parallels you see between James & what you just observed in Luke
- Does what you have read in James & Luke forbid the making of plans or the setting of goals?
- What are these passages teaching us in respect to our plans & future?

## **Lesson Fourteen—Chapter Five & James 5:1-12**

### **Day One Through Day Three**

- Read James Chapter 5
- Observe the chapter
- Mark key words
- Make a list of what you learn

### **Day Four**

- How does James 5:1-6 relate to James 5:7-11?

Did you notice the statement in James 5:3, "It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure"? Apparently, James thought that they were in the last days. Was he right? When did the last days begin?

- Look up the following Scriptures
- Record your insights regarding the last days
  - Hebrews 1:2, Acts 2:17, 2 Peter 3:3-4, Jude 18, 1 John 2:18

- What is the end of all earthly things?
- Read 2 Peter 3:7-14
  - What should our attitude be?

## **Day Five**

- Read James 5:1-2
- List all the references to the coming of the Lord & the last days
  - What is the repeated exhortation or admonition that is given in the light of the Lords' coming?
  - How many times is the exhortation/admonition give?
  - How many times is it said?
  - What do you learn from this that you can apply to your own life?
- Look up the following verses
- Record what the prophets of God endured
  - Matthew 5:12, Matthew 23:29-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:14-15,
  - Matthew 21:33-41
- Read Job 1, 2, & 3---Record your observations

## **Lesson Fifteen—James 5:13-20**

### **Day One**

- Read James 5:13-20
- Record the number of times the word "prayer" or its synonym is used
- How does "sing praises" in verse 13 fit in with prayer?
- Note the various times or conditions under which James tells us to pray
- Look up the Greek word for each use of "pray" & "prayer" in James 5:13-20
- Look up the definition in an expository dictionary

### **Day Two**

According to James 5:13, if one is "suffering" (afflicted, KJV), he is to pray

- Look up the meaning of the word "suffering" & record it
  - Have you ever been suffering?
  - What did you do?
  - As a doer of the Word, what are you to do when you suffer
  - Why do you think James tells the cheerful that they are to sing psalms or praises?
- Read James 5:14-15

- Answer the following questions
  - Who is the initiator of prayer in this situation?
  - Why is prayer to be initiated?
  - Who does the praying?
  - What kind of oil is to be used?
  - From the context of these verses, where do you think this prayer meeting is to take place? Explain your answer.
  - What will "restore" the sick?
- Look up the word for "restore" (save, KJV) (James 5:15)
- Record its transliteration & definition
  - What part do you think the oil plays?
  - What kind of prayer restores the sick?
  - Explain this kind of prayer
  - Do you think verses 14-16 teach that any time a sick person calls for the elders & they pray, healing is always guaranteed?

## Day Three

- Read James 5:16-18
- Look up the following words in a concordance & expository dictionary
  - Confess---James 5:16
  - Sins (faults, KJV)---James 5:16
  - Healed---James 5:16
  - Effective (effectual fervent, KJV)---James 5:16
  - Righteous---James 5:16
  - Can accomplish (availeth, KJV)---James 5:16
  - Nature like (like passions, KJV)---James 5:17
  - Earnestly---James 5:17

The verbs "confess" & "pray" in James 5:16 are in the present tense, in the imperative mood, and in the second person plural; thus, they imply that this is a group activity rather than the action of a single individual.

- Look up the following cross-references
- How do they relate to James 5:16-17
  - Luke 11:5-8, Luke 18:1-8, Matthew 15:21-28
- Look up the following cross-references that use the same word for healing as the one used in James 5:16. What type of healing takes place?
  - Matthew 13:15, Luke 6:17-19, Luke 22:51, Hebrews 12:13, 1 Peter 2:24
- Write out your explanation of what verse 16 is teaching

## Day Four

- Read James 5:17-18
  - What do you think James' purpose was in citing Elijah?
  - From your previous word studies, what did you learn about Elijah's praying?
  - How did Elijah ever get the boldness, the confidence to shut up the heavens for 3 1/2 years when he was no more than an ordinary man?
- Read the following references & note just how ordinary Elijah was
  - 1 Kings 17:5-7, 1 Kings 19:1-3, 1 Kings 19:4, 1 Kings 19:10, 14
- Read 1 Kings 17:1
  - Ask the 5 W's & H questions
  - How do you think Elijah came up with the boldness for such a pronouncement to wicked King Ahab?
- Look at 1 Kings 16:29-34
  - Note the conditions in Israel during Ahab's reign
- Read Deuteronomy 11:13-17 & 28:15, 23-24
  - Write down your observations & insights
- What do you think Elijah's life was like for those years of drought?
- What about his prayer life?
- In light of all that you have learned regarding prayer this week, what effect does sin have on a person's prayer life?
- Read the following Scriptures noting the essence of each.
  - John 9:31, Isaiah 59:1-2, Psalm 66:18, Proverbs 28:9, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9
- Considering all of these cross-references & considering what you have seen in James 5, what effect does sin have on a person's prayer life? How is sin to be dealt with?

## Day Five

- How has God spoken to you personally this week?
- Read James 5:16
- Answer the following questions
  - How do you think it would help you to be able to do this with some other believers?
  - What would be necessary on your part for this to come to pass?
  - What steps are you going to take to bring it about?
- Read James 5:19-20
- Answer the following questions
  - How do these two verses relate to James and to the purpose of his Epistle?
- What is James' final word to you personally if you are going to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only?
- Will you be a doer of the Word with regard to James 5:19-20?

# ***James Chapter Themes***

Book Theme

Author

Recipients

Purpose

Historical Background

Key Words

<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>