



## **Week 1**

### **James 1:1-27**

1. In light of verses 2-4 & 12, discuss how else people react to “trials”, apart from “pure joy” and “blessedness”. How does this demonstrate what people value?
2. If you were trying to encourage a group of Christian friends to not just “hear” the word” but “do” the word, what would be your best idea?
3. Re-read verses 14-15. How would you respond to someone who feels ashamed about their temptations?
4. Share with the group or reflect solo on your journey of being given “birth by the word of truth” (verse 18).
5. Re-read verse 27. It has been said that caring for the poor is less central to Christian living today because governments and welfare agencies bear this burden. Do you agree? Why/ why not?



## **Week 2**

### **James 2:1-26**

1. Read the passage twice: first at normal speed, then secondly slowly, to assist in listening to key themes then key phrases.
2. How are we to reconcile James’s teaching about “works” with Paul’s teaching about “grace”? (Eg. Ephesians 2:1-10)
3. Summarise what’s wrong with “favouritism” according to verses 1-13. What is God’s alternative for “believers in the glorious Lord Jesus Christ”?
4. In light of verse 19, discuss this statement: “The difference between demonic faith and real faith is not right belief but right action.”
5. Read Genesis 22:1-4 and Joshua 2:1-24 & 6:15-25. How do these stories fulfil verse 20, “faith without works is useless”?
6. Share with the group or reflect solo about something uncomfortable you think God wants you to do, because of this study.



### **Week 3**

#### **James 3:1-18**

1. Verse 1 is translated “Not many should become teachers, my brothers and sisters”. List out the dangers there are for men or women who wish to teach.
2. Verse 2 says that the person who can control the tongue can control the whole of his/her ethical life. How so?
3. Think back over your week of speaking. What do your words indicate about your state of heart?
4. Re-read verses 10-13. For a Christian community, what is undesirable about “blessing and cursing” and what is desirable about “works done in gentleness”?
5. Read Matthew 12:33-37. What are the similarities between Jesus’ and James’ teaching?
6. To what degree could people describe you as “pure, peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, and without pretense” (verse 17)? Where are your areas of growth?



### **Week 4**

#### **James 4:1 - 5:6**

1. Notice how James links ‘murder, coveting, and spending’ with “adultery” (4:2-4). What’s the connection?
2. What’s your reaction to the idea that God’s Spirit in you is “jealous”? (4:5)
3. Someone once said: *Gossip needn’t be false to be evil. There’s a lot of truth that shouldn’t be passed around.* Discuss this quote in light of 4:11-12.
4. Re-read 4:13-17. How common in your life is the phrase (or concept) “...if it’s God’s will”? Why/why not?
5. In 5:1-6, summarise in one sentence what James is warning against. What is so wrong with pursuing wealth at the expense of relationships?



## **Week 5**

### **James 5:7-20**

1. Re-read 5:1-6, then verse 7 again. What's the connection?
2. What's been your understanding up until now about "the Lord's coming"? Which experiences/passages do you draw this from?
3. "Let your Yes be Yes and your No be No". In what ways have lies hurt you or people you know? How can you take truth-telling seriously in the week ahead?
4. What is your definition of "prayer"?
5. Regarding verse 15, discuss this quote: "James is saying that if the illness is the result of the sufferer's sin, the request for healing and subsequent prayer will function as an act of repentance and so bring forgiveness."
6. Read 1 Kings 18:18 - 19:1-5. Consider what James means when he says "Elijah was a human being as we are." What about his story relates to our life of prayer?