

BEGINNING BIBLE CHALLENGE
MONTH 1 – WEEK 3

One of the greatest blessings for the Believer is to have a meaningful relationship with God and enjoy fellowship with Him on a daily basis. This study will help you to develop a habit of daily time with God.

Your challenge for this week is to read your Bible five days, not including time you would read it at church. This week you will journey through the small book of James. Read one chapter per day and answer the questions following each passage. This will help you catch the meaning of the verses and how they should change your life.

Day 1 – Read James 1.

1. James is writing to saved Jews who have been scattered due to the persecution of the church. His first instruction for them was to count it joy when what happened?

2. According to verses 3-4, what benefits come from that?

3. Verses 5-8 contain great promises when we need wisdom. The specific context of that promise is asking for and receiving wisdom during times of trial. How do these verses encourage you?

4. One trial we may face is hard financial times. Verse 9 tells us to do what if we find ourselves in that situation?

5. Verse 12 gives a special promise to anyone who endures temptation or testing and passes the test successfully. What is the promise?

6. Verses 13-16 now talk about a different type of temptation, not trial, but enticement to do wrong. Why is never the source of enticement to do wrong?

7. According to verse 14, what is the source of temptation?

8. What is the final end of temptation?

9. James makes a contrast in verses 17-18. God doesn't tempt with evil. He's a good God. Anything good in our lives comes from where?

10. According to verse 19, we should be swift to what and slow to what?

11. What is the reason given in verse 20?

12. According to verses 21-22, what should we do with the Bible?

13. What is true of a person who cannot control his tongue?

14. According to verse 27, what two things make up true religion?

Day 2 – Read James 2.

1. Verses 1-9 talk about the problem of showing favoritism toward one person or another, particularly based on their wealth or lack of it. According to verse 4, what happens when we do show favoritism?

2. According to verse 5, what benefit is there to being poor?

3. According to verses 8-9, what law of God do we break if we show favoritism?

4. What principle does verses 10-11 teach about the law?

5. How might you use that verse when sharing the Gospel with people?

6. Verses 14-26 talk about faith and works and could be easily misunderstood if we are not careful. Verse 14 contains two rhetorical questions. The first one is this: “What benefit is there in a person’s faith if it doesn’t drive him to action?” We would all agree that there is no benefit. That sets the stage for the rest of the chapter. He illustrates that principle in verses 15-17. What is the practical profit of faith without works?

7. Verse 18 teaches us what the proof of our faith is. What is it?

8. Verse 19 proves very plainly that our belief needs to be backed up with action. According to verse 21, what action backed up Abraham’s belief?

9. According to verse 22, Abraham's faith was made perfect or complete by his actions. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham believe about God that drove him to offer Isaac?

10. Verse 24 is the one that could cause a lot of problems if it is taken without the teaching of the surrounding verses. What did we believe about Jesus that drove us to the action of trusting Him to save us from our sin?

11. Our faith should drive us to action. If not, it is useless. What is the summary given in verse 26?

Day 3 – Read James 3.

1. Now James address the issue of our tongue, specifically how we use it. He starts out in verse 1 with a warning not to be quick to be a teacher because they are held to a higher standard. We can and should use our tongue to teach, but we should be very careful what we teach. Verse 2 tells us that we all offend or stumble, particularly with our words. What is said of the person who learns to control his tongue?

2. Verses 3-4 illustrate the truth in verse 5. What is the truth and what two things illustrate it?

3. According to verse 6, what is the danger of the tongue?

4. What is the only thing in nature that hasn't yet been tamed?

5. James continues in verses 8-9 to point out a major inconsistency in our lives. What is it?

6. Now James moves on to a different topic in verses 13-18, wisdom. According to verse 13, what does a wise man do?

7. Verse 15 tells us that a certain kind of "wisdom" doesn't come from God. Verse 14 tells us where it originates. Where?

8. According to verse 17, what are the characteristics of Godly wisdom?

9. Verse 18 tells us that the fruit of righteousness is sown in the fertile ground of peace. God's wisdom is peaceable, and when we follow His wisdom, what will we naturally reap?

Day 4 – Read James 4.

1. The book of James is sometimes referred to as the Proverbs of the New Testament. There is a lot of practical wisdom to help us in life. Chapter 4 hits home with all of us. Verse 1 addresses the issue of conflicts. From where do they come?

2. Verse 2 tells us that we have all kinds of stuff that we want, and we try everything imaginable to get it, but why don't we have it?

3. Sometimes we even ask for those things, but we still don't have them. According to verse 3, why?

4. Verse 4 may seem out of place, but it deals with some specific areas of lust. What does God say about the person who is involved in this kind of lust?

5. Verse 6 gives hope for dealing with the lusts that war in our members. What is the hope?

6. According to verse 7, to whom should we submit ourselves specifically when facing lusts?

7. According to verse 8, what happens when we draw close to God?

8. Verse 6 tells us that God gives grace to the humble. Why do you think verse 10 is so important to handling lusts?

9. What does verse 11 tell us that we should not do?

10. We all make plans, but God is in control of that. To what does James compare our life in verses 13-14?

11. Instead of saying, "I'm going to do this," what should we say?

12. What final caution does James give in verse 17?

Day 5 – Read James 5.

1. James leaves no stone unturned. Now he moves to those who glory in their wealth. What does he tell them to do?

2. According to verses 2-3, what is the problem with their wealth?

3. Verse 4 tells about employers who have used people to gain their wealth, but not paid them for their work. Who hears their cries?

4. What encouragement does God give to those who have been mistreated in verses 7-8?

5. What does verse 9 tells not to do toward one another?

6. According to verse 10, who serves as an example of enduring suffering?

7. Verse 11 gives great hope and encouragement for those experiencing trials. We count them happy or completely contented that endure. Job is one such example. According to this verse, how does God reveal Himself?

8. Verse 12 talks about promises we make. Our "yes" should mean "yes." Our "no" should mean "no." How could that kind of reputation benefit your testimony?

9. According to verse 13, what should a person do who is afflicted?

10. What should a happy person do?

11. According to verses 14-15, what should sick people do? What will the result be?

According to verse 16, what should a person stuck in sin do?

12. There is power in prayer. How did James illustrate it in verses 17-18? You can read about it in I Kings 17:1 and 18:41-46.

13. What encouragement is given in verses 19-20 to the person who goes after a friend who is not living as he should?
