

JAMEEL



James Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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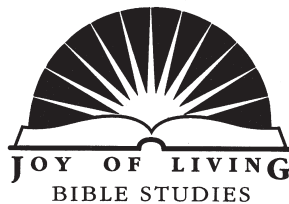
Joy of Living James Youth Bible Study

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James

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga



Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living** Study.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 minutes. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 minutes. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps...(then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of

children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.

- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest. The games and crafts listed in each lesson are suggestions only. You may choose to use others or skip them entirely.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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James — Game & Craft List

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JAMES - WEEK ONE

NO DISCUSSION LESSON

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Set boundary lines to restrict play to a small area. Two players are chosen to be "IT." They join hands and with their free hand try to tag the other players. The first player tagged joins hands between the two "IT." The remaining players, when tagged, join the tag line between the original two "IT." Only end players ("IT") may tag. It is permissible for a player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging resumes. The game ends when the last player is caught or when a time limit has been reached. The last two players tagged become "IT."

15 - 20 minutes discuss CLASS RULES

to end of class CRAFT: FUN SCIENCE

MATERIALS:

paper plate	scissors
red & blue paint/brushes	string
2-4 oz. lemon juice or vinegar	salt
10-20 dull copper pennies	large clean nail
small glass or jar	hole punch

Cut out the center of the paper plate for your circle (discard outer portion). Paint one side red; allow to dry. Paint the other blue; allow to dry. Punch two small opposing holes. Thread short lengths of string through each hole. Hold the cardboard by the strings and twirl. The two colors will become one: purple. Using another color instead of blue will create a different single color.

Put the pennies in the glass with a pinch of salt, and cover with juice or vinegar. Let stand 2-3 minutes. Meanwhile, clean the nail. You can use water and scouring powder. When clean, add to the pennies mixture. Wait for 15 minutes, and remove the nail. The nail becomes copper coated. This happens because the copper from the pennies interacts with the acid forming a new compound, called copper citrate, and this compound is what coats the nail. Try rubbing the nail to remove the copper. It is there to stay.

JOY OF LIVING

JAMES - LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's okay to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 1, verses 1 - 5.

1. What does James call himself in verse 1?

2. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of the word servant?

3. **HARD:** James calls himself a servant of God and Jesus Christ. Using your definition of servant, how would someone be a servant of God and Jesus?

4. What do these verses say about servants?

Matthew 20:26,27

Luke 17:7-10

John 12:26

5. **PERSONAL:** Could you put your name in place of James' in James 1:1? Are you a servant of Jesus?

6. Read Genesis 35:22b-26a and Exodus 28:21. Who are the twelve tribes?

7. Where are they, now according to James 1:1?

8. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

persevere

test

trial

9. After you have learned something new, you will have a test to see how much you learned. You might have a math, spelling, swimming, or even a driving test. Temptation or trial is another word for test. Satan tested even Jesus. Read Matthew 4:1-11, and fill in the blanks below with the following words.

angels bow bread down earth man

serve stones test throw worship word of God

Jesus was hungry. Satan said, "Turn these _____ into _____."

But, Jesus said, "Man lives on the _____ . " Satan told Jesus to _____ Himself down because He would be caught by _____ and He wouldn't get hurt.

Jesus said, "Don't _____ God."

Jesus was with God when God formed the earth. Satan thought the earth was his. So he told Jesus to _____ and _____ him and he would give Jesus everything that was in the _____.

Jesus told Satan to get lost. Jesus said, "Worship the Lord your God and _____ Him only."

10. How can you know what God wants you to do?

11. What does Proverbs 9:10 say about wisdom?

Read James chapter 1, verses 6 – 15.

1. When you ask something from God, what does James say you must believe?

2. **HARD:** Our faith is tested so we become more like Jesus. How does 2 Peter 1:5-8 describe someone growing in faith?

3. Jesus wore a crown of thorns so we could receive forgiveness of our sin and eternal life with Him. What does James tell us our crown is for believing and trusting in Jesus, and staying faithful to Him?

4. How is everyone tempted?

5. What happens when we give in to temptation?

6. Our faith in God's care grows every time we obey God and do what is right. How can we do what is right in God's eyes? See Psalm 119:9 for your answer.

JAMES – WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION LESSON 1

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: **HIT THE PENCIL**

Divide into two teams. On opposed sides of the room, mark a **START** line for each team, and a line in the center separating them. Place a pencil on this line, between the two teams. In turn each player has five tries to hit the pencil off the line (you may have them use a bean bag, ball or rolled up piece of paper to try to hit the pencil). When the pencil is hit, the team scores a point. You can set a goal in points, or a time limit.

15 - 20 minutes discuss **LESSON 1**

to end of class **CRAFT: SUN CATCHERS**

MATERIALS

toothpick, small paint brushes
sun catchers' paint (from crafts supply stores)
thread/yarn/string
overhead projector sheets (clear vinyl, from office supply stores)

Make copies of patterns (see next pages) onto overhead sheets or you can use clear plastic paper savers. These are not as sturdy as the overhead projector sheets, but they are less expensive. The student needs to decide which spaces will be painted with which color before they start painting, and paint one color at a time. If one paint touches another, the paint will run. Paint the open spaces, using the small paint brushes and sun catchers' paint. If a color needs to touch another, allow about 10 minutes before using the touching paint color. Paint all the areas that are the same color at the same time. When that color is completed, go to another color. If new paint isn't touching another color, that space can be painted without waiting. When dry, cut along dotted lines, punch a hole in the top and thread a string through it.

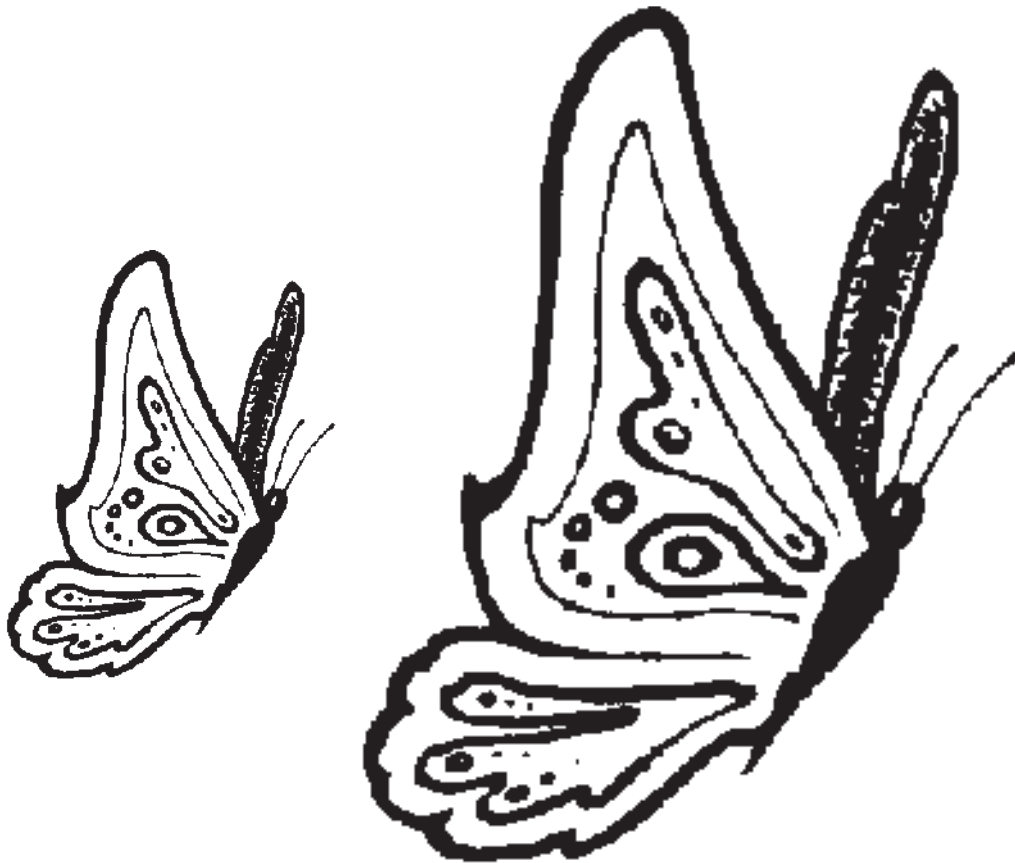
The drying time is about one hour. If your class ends sooner than needed for this craft, start it early, and finish at the regular time. Or take two weeks to complete. When taking home, keep it flat.

Sun Catcher Pattern



Jesus Loves Me

Sun Catcher Pattern



Trust in the Lord

JAMES ANSWERS - LESSON 1

Read James chapter 1, verses 1 - 5.

1. What does James call himself in verse 1? “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
2. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of the word servant? “One that serves others; specific: one that performs duties about the person or home of a master or personal employer” (WEBSTER’S).
3. **HARD:** James calls himself a servant of God and Jesus Christ. Using your definition of servant, how would someone be a servant of God and Jesus? [Answers may vary. The leader may use this to launch ways to serve others in the name of Jesus. One answer may be: A person who does things for other people just as Jesus would.]
4. What do these verses say about servants?

Matthew 20:26,27 “But among you it is quite different. Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant. And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave.”

Luke 17:7-10 “And suppose a servant comes in from plowing a field. Or perhaps he was taking care of the sheep. This servant doesn’t just sit down and eat. But first, he cooks his master’s meal and serves him his supper. Then he sits down to eat his own. And he is not even thanked for this. This is because he is just doing his duty. In the same way, if you obey me, you should not expect praise. For you have simply done your duty.”

John 12:26 “If anyone wants to be my disciple, he must follow me. For my servants must be where I am. And if they follow me, the Father will honor them.”

5. **PERSONAL:** Could you put your name in place of James’ in James 1:1? Are you a servant of Jesus?
6. Read Genesis 35:22b-26a and Exodus 28:21. Who are the twelve tribes? “Here are the names of the 12 sons of Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher.”
7. Where are they now according to James 1:1? Scattered everywhere, among the nations.
8. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of these words?

persevere “To persist steadfastly in a purpose of undertaking; continue in spite of difficulties” (HOLT).

test “Examination; trial; critical evaluation. Questions and exercises to judge the skill, knowledge, and intelligence of a student. Something which tries or measures a person or thing” (HOLT).

trial “Hardship, temptation, etc., that tries one’s endurance.”

9. After you have learned something new, you will have a test to see how much you learned. You might have a math, spelling, swimming, or even a driving test. Temptation or trial is another word for test. Satan tested even Jesus. Read Matthew 4:1-11, and fill in the blanks below with the following words.

angels bow bread down earth man

serve stones test throw worship word of God

Jesus was hungry. Satan said, “Turn these stones into bread.”

But, Jesus said, “Man lives on the Word of God.”

Satan told Jesus to throw Himself down because He would be caught by angels and He wouldn’t get hurt.

Jesus said, “Don’t test God.”

Jesus was with God when God formed the earth. Satan thought the earth was his. So he told Jesus to bow down and worship him and he would give Jesus everything that was in the earth.

Jesus told Satan to get lost. Jesus said, “Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

10. How can you know what God wants you to do? Verse 5: “If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him. He will gladly tell you. He is ready to give wisdom to all who ask him. He will not scold you.”
11. What does Proverbs 9:10 say about wisdom? “For the respect and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.

Read James chapter 1, verses 6 – 15.

1. When you ask something from God, what does James say you must believe? Verse 6: “When you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to answer you. A doubtful mind is like a wave of the sea. It is driven and tossed by the wind.”

2. **HARD:** Our faith is tested so we become more like Jesus. How does 2 Peter 1:5-8 describe someone growing in faith? “But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith. You must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. You must know God. If your treasures are in Heaven, your heart will be there, too.”
3. Jesus wore a crown of thorns so we could receive forgiveness of our sin and eternal life with Him. What does James tell us our crown is for believing and trusting in Jesus, and staying faithful to Him? Verse 12: “A man is happy if he doesn’t give in when he is tempted. Then later he will get his reward. He will get the crown of life God has promised those who love him.”
4. How is everyone tempted? Verse 14: “Temptation is the pull of man’s own evil thought and wishes.”
5. What happens when we give in to temptation? Verse 15: “Evil thoughts lead to evil deeds. Then evil deeds lead to the death penalty from God.”
6. Our faith in God’s care grows every time we obey God and do what is right. And how can we do what is right in God’s eyes? See Psalm 119:9 for your answer. “How can a young person stay pure? By reading your Word and doing what it says.”

6. Everyone has seen his shadow. Some have made hand shadows on the wall. When you move, so does the shadow. And as you grow you change. But God does not change—ever. What else do you learn about God from these verses?

Numbers 23:19

Psalm 102:27

Malachi 3:6

Read James chapter 1, verses 19 – 27.

1. What are Christians supposed to be quick to do, slow to do, and not become?
2. James tells us to get rid of the evil in our life. What he is telling us to do is to get rid of the sins that are hidden, like secret thoughts and attitudes that make our behavior sinful. What does Ephesians 4:31 add?
3. When we read the Bible or hear it read, what does James 1:22,23 tell us we are to do?
4. What does Matthew 7:21 tell us we are to do?
5. James encourages his readers to look at God's law, which gives freedom. How does a person do this? See the following verses for your answer.

Psalm 119:9

Psalm 119:11

6. It is said the tongue is the strongest muscle in our body. The tongue gives us our sense of taste, helps us chew, and helps us speak. What do these verses say is the way we should use our tongue when speaking?

Psalm 34:13

Psalm 39:1

Psalm 141:3

Proverbs 13:3

7. How do these verses show you can keep from getting dirty by the world?

Romans 12:2

Philippians 2:13

8. Which verse did you pick to memorize this week?

JAMES – WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION LESSON 2

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CHAIN TAG

Two players join hands and are IT. Together they attempt to tag the other players. Players attempt to get away from IT. When a player is tagged, he joins hands in the middle of IT. Only the end players may tag. When the chain surrounds a player it is permissible for the player to break through or go under the joined hands of the line. When the chain has been broken, it must unite again before tagging is legal. The game is completed when the last player is caught or when a time limit is reached. The last two players caught act as IT for the next game. Boundary lines should be set to restrict play area.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2

to end of class CRAFT: CREATIVE PAINTING

MATERIALS

small metal screen or metal colander
tempera paint (you may want to try food coloring for a different effect)
old toothbrushes
paper: art, butcher, construction, etc.
newspapers
bowls

Cover worktable with the newspapers. Pour paint or food coloring into bowls. Hold the screening material or colander over piece of paper. Use one toothbrush per color. Dip a toothbrush into paint and scrape over the screen, making spatters on the paper. Allow to dry.

Be creative. Spatter paint and then an opposing food coloring. What happens? Place a stencil on paper and spatter color on the open area of the stencil. Or take an object, i.e. leaf, paper shapes, spoon, and place on paper. Then spatter paper with color. Remove the shape, the covered area is paint free and you have the reverse of the stencil.

JAMES ANSWERS - LESSON 2

Read James chapter 1, verses 16 – 18.

The dictionary says this is the meaning of the word “deceive”: “To cause (a person) to believe what is untrue. To mislead” (HOLT).

1. In John 8:44 Jesus is talking about Satan. Jesus tells us how Satan gets to us. What is Satan’s way? “He was a murderer from the beginning. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is perfectly normal. For he is the father of lies.”
2. What does Jesus say about Himself in John 8:45? “And so when I tell the truth, you just don’t believe it!”
3. God gives good and perfect gifts. What is the gift in James 1:18? “He decided to give us our new lives through the truth of his Word. We became the first children in his new family.”
4. What does Paul, the author of Philippians 4:8, tell us to do with our mind? “And now, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say one more thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely.”
5. **PERSONAL:** Remember the definition of deceive. Remember what you learned about God’s gifts. Remember what Philippians told you to think about. If you need help remembering, look at your above answers. A farmer plants strawberry seeds, and when it’s harvest time, he picks strawberries. He didn’t expect to pick watermelons. The first sentence of Proverbs 23:7, in the King James Version of the Bible, says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” Which thoughts would please God more, thoughts that are evil or thoughts that are good? Remember the farmer!
6. Everyone has seen his shadow. Some have made hand shadows on the wall. When you move, so does the shadow. And as you grow you change. But God does not change—ever. What else do you learn about God from these verses?

Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind” (NIV).

Psalms 102:27 “But you never grow old. You are forever, and your years never end.”

Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord. I never change. That is why you are not already destroyed. For my mercy lasts forever.”

Read James chapter 1, verses 19 – 27.

1. What are Christians supposed to be quick to do, slow to do, and not become? Verse 19: “Dear brothers, remember this! It is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry.” [It’s rather hard to talk and listen at the same time. Therefore, keeping quiet instead of talking will do the best teaching.]
2. James tells us to get rid of the evil in our life. What he is telling us to do is to get rid of the sins that are hidden, like secret thoughts and attitudes that make our behavior sinful. What does Ephesians 4:31 add? “Stop being mean, bad-tempered, and angry. Fighting, harsh words, and dislike of others should have no place in your lives.”
3. When we read the Bible or hear it read, what does James 1:22,23 tell us we are to do? “And remember, it is a message to obey. It is not just something to listen to. So don’t fool yourselves. What kind of person just listens and doesn’t obey? He is like a man looking at his face in a mirror.” [In the very early centuries, or the ancient world, mirrors were made of highly polished metal. The mirror was used in much the same way as it is today – to inspect the body and the face. It was also used as decoration, the same as locketts with mirrors today, or silver and shiny beads. In the literature of yesteryear, mentions made of the mirror were symbolic of moral development.]
4. What does Matthew 7:21 tell us we are to do? “Not all who sound religious are really godly people. They might call me ‘Lord, Lord’. But still they won’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. For the important thing is that they obey my Father in Heaven.”
5. James encourages his readers to look at God’s law, which gives freedom. How does a person do this? See the following verses for your answer.

Psalm 119:9 “How can a young person stay pure? By reading your Word and doing what it says.”

Psalm 119:11 “I have thought much about your words. I have stored them in my heart. That way they will hold me back from sin.”

6. It is said the tongue is the strongest muscle in our body. The tongue gives us our sense of taste, helps us chew, and helps us speak. What do these verses say is the way we should use our tongue when speaking?

Psalm 34:13 “Then don’t let your tongue say anything evil.”

Psalm 39:1 “I said to myself, ‘I’m going to stop sinning by what I say! I’ll keep quiet, especially when the ungodly are around me.’”

Psalm 141:3 “Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut. Help me to keep my lips sealed.”

Proverbs 13:3 “Self-control means controlling the tongue! A quick answer can ruin everything.”

7. How do these verses show you can keep from getting dirty by the world?

Romans 12:2 “Don’t copy the world. Be a different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn how his ways will really satisfy you.”

Philippians 2:13 “For God is at work within you. He helps you want to obey him. And he helps you do what he wants.”

8. Which verse did you pick to memorize this week?

JAMES - LESSON 3

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's okay to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 2, verses 1 – 4.

1. What does James 2:1 say Christians should NOT do?

2. Picture this in your mind. You walk into your Sunday school class, only to discover there's a new kid sitting all alone. Choose the answer below that comes closest to what you would do.

_____ Look for my friends and join them.

_____ Introduce myself to the new kid and then join my friends.

_____ Introduce myself to the new kid and talk to him, or her.

3. How should we treat everyone? The following verses will help you with your answer.

Deuteronomy 10:17

Acts 10:34,35

Romans 2:11

The word “favoritism” comes from two words in the Greek language. These words together mean “at face value.” That means looking at someone and judging them by how they look, what they are wearing, the kind of car they drive, how they talk, or the color of their skin.

God has a lot to say about humans showing favoritism. He tells us in 1 Samuel 16:7 “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Don’t judge by a man’s face or height. This is not the man I have chosen. I don’t make decisions the way you do! People accept others by the way they look on the outside. But I look inside a person. I look at a person’s heart and thoughts.’”

4. **PERSONAL:** Have you been left out of something? How did you feel?

5. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever left anyone out of something? How did that make them feel?

6. Jesus told us what to do in the following verses. Put them in your own words.

Matthew 7:12

Luke 6:31

Galatians 5:14

Read James, chapter 2, verses 5 – 8.

1. Money buys everything we need. But, James tells us we don’t need to be rich or millionaires. He does tell us what to have lots of. Do you know what it is?

2. God sees believers as having the same value, as being equal to each other. How does Galatians 3:26-28 add to your understanding of the believer’s place with God?

3. The word “judge” is used often in the Bible. The word “judge” means to make a decision about something. So James is saying that when you meet someone new you are not to judge them. You don’t judge their faith, their thoughts, their ‘smarts’, or their looks. Not by the toys they have, the clothes they wear, the house they call home, their car, or anything else that belongs to them. There are many verses in the Bible that tell us about judging others. Below are just a few. What do they say?

Deuteronomy 1:17

Proverbs 24:23

1 Peter 1:17

4. What is the royal Law?

Read James chapter 2, verses 9 – 13.

1. If you show favoritism, what are you doing?
2. What happens if you break only one part of this law?
3. Read the following scriptures. Then answer this question: How does a person obey the whole law?

Matthew 22:36-40 “Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses?” Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest command. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.

All the other commands come from these two laws. And all the demands of the prophets come from them, too. Keep only these two and you will find that you are obeying all the others.”

Romans 13:10 “Love does no wrong to anyone. That’s why it keeps all of God’s laws. It is the only law you need.”

4. Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, which is the Bible’s definition of love.

1 Corinthians 13:4: Love is _____. Love is _____. Love does not _____, love is not _____.

1 Corinthians 13:5: Love is not _____, love is not _____ - _____, love is not easily _____. Love keeps _____ _____ _____ _____.

1 Corinthians 13:6: Love does not _____ in _____, but _____ with the _____.

1 Corinthians 13:7: Love always _____, always _____, always _____, always _____.

1 Corinthians 13:8a: Love _____ _____.

5. **PERSONAL:** How is your love? Can you put your name where the word ‘LOVE’ is written? Why not try? By so doing, you will find out where your love needs are, and you then can ask for God’s help to do better.

JAMES - WEEK FOUR

DISCUSSION LESSON 3

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: RESCUE RELAY

Choose teams; then stand in single lines behind the starting mark. One player from each team is at the opposite end of the play area behind the goal line, facing his team. Upon the signal, he races to the first person in his line, takes his hand and races back to the goal line. The leader stays at the goal line while the “rescued” player runs back to the team and gets the next player. Continue the “rescue” in this manner, so that each player taken to the goal line returns to get another player until all players are in single line formation BEHIND the goal line. The first team to finish, wins.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 3
- to end of class CRAFT: NEGATIVE GLUE PICTURE

MATERIALS

white glue (quick drying)	oil pastel crayons
black or dark construction paper	bowls
paint brushes (optional)	food coloring (optional)

Have the children begin this craft when they first arrive. Draw a design, geometric or a picture, on the construction paper with the glue. Caution: if the glue is spread too thickly, it will not dry in time to finish the craft. The paint brushes can be used, or use fingers. If desired, color the glue with food coloring and place in bowls for easy accessibility. The glue should dry in about 2 hours. Color in the spaces without the glue (negative spaces) with the pastels.

JAMES ANSWERS - LESSON 3

Read James chapter 2, verses 1 – 4.

1. What does James 2:1 say Christians should NOT do? “Brothers, do you say you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory? You shouldn’t if you love rich people and look down on poor people.” [Jesus didn’t show partiality, and neither should Christians.]
2. Picture this in your mind. You walk into your Sunday school class, only to discover there’s a new kid sitting all alone. Choose the answer below that comes closest to what you would do. Answers will vary. [The King James Version of Matthew 23:6 records seats as “chief,” or “at the head table,” as at a banquet, or at the “place of honor.” This is where the Pharisees liked to sit. Rings were another sign of importance in man’s eye. The more rings one had, the richer the wearer.]

_____ Look for my friends and join them.

_____ Introduce myself to the new kid and then join my friends.

_____ Introduce myself to the new kid and talk to him, or her.

3. How should we treat everyone? The following verses will help you with your answer.

Deuteronomy 10:17 “The Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great and mighty God. He is the God of terror. He plays no favorites. He takes no bribes.”

Acts 10:34,35 “Then Peter replied, ‘I see that the Jews are not the only people God loves! In every nation he has those who worship him. They do good deeds and are accepted by him.’”

Romans 2:11 “God treats everyone the same.”

The word “favoritism” comes from two words in the Greek language. These words together mean “at face value.” That means looking at someone and judging them by how they look, what they are wearing, the kind of car they drive, how they talk, or the color of their skin.

God has a lot to say about humans showing favoritism. He tells us in 1 Samuel 16:7 “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Don’t judge by a man’s face or height. This is not the man I have chosen. I don’t make decisions the way you do! People accept others by the way they look on the outside. But I look inside a person. I look at a person’s heart and thoughts.’”

4. **PERSONAL:** Have you been left out of something? How did you feel?
5. **PERSONAL:** Have you ever left anyone out of something? How did that make them feel?
6. Jesus told us what to do in the following verses. Put them in your own words.

Matthew 7:12 “Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the laws of Moses and the words of the prophets.”

Luke 6:31 “Treat others as you want them to treat you.”

Galatians 5:14 “For the whole Law can be summed up in one command. It is, ‘Love others as you love yourself.’”

Read James, chapter 2, verses 5 – 8.

1. Money buys everything we need. But James tells us we don’t need to be rich or millionaires. He does tell us what to have lots of. Do you know what it is? Verse 5: “Listen to me, dear brothers! God has chosen poor people to be rich in faith. The Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. That is the gift God has promised to all those who love him.”
2. God sees believers as having the same value, as being equal to each other. How does Galatians 3:26-28 add to your understanding of the believer’s place with God? “Now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. We have been baptized into union with Christ. We are covered by him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles. We are no longer slaves or free men. We are not even men or women. We are all the same, we are Christians. We are one in Christ Jesus.”
3. The word “judge” is used often in the Bible. The word “judge” means to make a decision about something. So, James is saying that when you meet someone new you are not to judge them. You don’t judge their faith, their thoughts, their ‘smarts’, or their looks. Not by the toys they have, the clothes they wear, the house they call home, their car, or anything else that belongs to them. There are many verses in the Bible that tell us about judging others. Below are just a few. What do they say?

Deuteronomy 1:17 “‘When giving your decisions,’ I told them, ‘never favor a man because he is rich. Be fair to great and small alike. Don’t fear their anger. For you are judging in the place of God. Bring me any cases too hard for you. I will handle them.’”

Proverbs 24:23 “It is wrong to punish the poor and let the rich go free.”

1 Peter 1:17 “Your heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites when he judges. He will judge you with perfect justice for all you do. So act with respect for him from now on until you get to heaven.”

4. What is the royal Law? Verse 8: “It is good when you obey our Lord’s command. He said, ‘You must love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.’”

Read James chapter 2, verses 9 – 13.

1. If you show favoritism, what are you doing? Verse 9: “You break this law when you love the rich. It is a great sin.” [The royal law mentioned in verse 8.]
2. What happens if you break only one part of this law? Verse 10: “What if someone keeps every law but makes one little slip? He is just as guilty as the person who has broken every law.”
3. Read the following scriptures. Then answer this question: How does a person obey the whole law?

Matthew 22:36-40 “‘Sir, which is the most important command in the laws of Moses?’ Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest command. The second most important is similar: Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself. All the other commands come from these two laws. And all the demands of the prophets come from them, too. Keep only these two and you will find that you are obeying all the others.’”

Romans 13:10 “Love does no wrong to anyone. That’s why it keeps all of God’s laws. It is the only law you need.”

4. Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, which is the Bible’s definition of love.

1 Corinthians 13:4: Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not boast, love is not proud.

1 Corinthians 13:5: Love is not rude, love is not self-seeking, love is not easily angered. Love keeps no records of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:6: Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth.

1 Corinthians 13:7: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:8a: Love never fails.

5. **PERSONAL:** How is your love? Can you put your name where the word ‘LOVE’ is written? Why not try? By so doing, you will find out where your love needs are, and you then can ask for God’s help to do better.

JAMES – LESSON 4

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it’s okay to write “I don’t know.”
- c. Think about what God’s Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 2, verses 14 – 26.

This section of scripture on faith is difficult to understand. And we don’t want you to be confused about faith. Paul states in Romans 3:28, “So we are saved by faith.” And in Ephesians 2:8,9 Paul says, “Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even that trust is not your own. It, too, is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done. So none of us can take any credit for it.” In these verses Paul was explaining how someone is saved. He shares the root, or bottom line, of salvation. James tells us what happens after we are saved. Our lives should show the evidence, or fruit, of our salvation.

For example, your mom has just returned from the store. You hope she has bought your favorite chocolate cookies. You believe she has. In faith, you peek into the cookie jar. The evidence, or fruit, that she did what you had faith in her to do is smeared all over your face. Your mom sees it and knows you had some chocolate cookies.

1. What does James say about faith in verse 17?

2. What do the demons believe?

3. What does James say about Abraham’s faith and actions?

4. James calls Abraham “a friend of God,” or “God’s friend.” Abraham did something that was very hard to do. God had asked him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham was willing to obey God. He didn’t know what was going to happen. This story is told in Genesis 22:1-14. Since Isaac carried the wood for the altar, he questioned his father where the lamb was for the sacrifice. How did Abraham answer Isaac’s question? See Genesis 22:8.

5. There are many people claiming to be Christians. They may even do nice things. Some know what the Bible says. But Jesus doesn't live in their hearts. Only God sees their hearts. He knows what they truly believe. How does Paul describe these people to Titus in Titus 1:16?

Hebrews chapter 11 is known as the faith chapter of the Bible. There is a list of people who believed God, trusted Him, and obeyed Him. They proved their faith by their actions. You may want to read that chapter to see what it says about the people of faith who lived long ago.

6. When we watch a ball game, we cheer our favorite team on to victory. Read Hebrews 12:1 to find out who cheers for us in our Christian walk.

The following crossword puzzle is meant to be fun. You may want to try filling in the spaces before you look up the scriptures that follow the statement. Or you can read Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. All the answers can be found there. Not all answers will be special people of the Bible. Some answers may be places or things.

ACROSS

1. His long hair was the reason he was strong. Judges 16:17.
2. She hid Israel's spies. Judges 2:4.
3. His brother killed him. Genesis 4:8.
4. He was called God's friend. James 2:23.
5. His dad loved him so much, he gave him beautiful coat. Genesis 37:3.
6. His dad was willing to sacrifice him. Genesis 22:9.
7. He was a shepherd before he was king. 1 Samuel 16:10-11.
8. These men and women told things about Israel's future. 1 Samuel 10:5.
9. God used him and 300 men to beat a large Midian army. Judges 7:19-21.

DOWN

1. This man anointed David as king of Israel. 1 Samuel 16:13.
2. He killed his brother. Genesis 4:8.
3. This man walked with God right into heaven. Genesis 5:23-24.
4. The Israelites conquered this city when its walls came down. Joshua 6:20.
5. He tricked his brother. Genesis 25:29-32.
6. He saw a bush burn. Exodus 3:2.
7. This man built a big boat. Genesis 6:12-14.
8. He traded his inheritance for some stew. Genesis 25:33-34.
9. Rahab hid them. Joshua 2:3,6.
10. Pharaoh's army drowned here. Exodus 13:18, 14:21,27,28.

JAMES - WEEK FIVE

DISCUSSION LESSON 4

- 15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship
- 15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: INDOOR TAG

Draw a circle about four feet in diameter on the floor (masking tape is easily removed and no damage is done). IT stands in the middle of the circle. The teacher calls out the names of one to three children. Each player must try to get into the circle before IT tags one. The game continues when the first one being tagged becomes IT. If no one is tagged, IT remains in the circle until a new one is tagged.

- 15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 4
- to end of class CRAFT: WATERCOLOR WASH

MATERIALS

wax crayons
muffin tins or small bowls
acrylic paint or poster paint
brushes
newspapers
art paper

Spread newspapers over work area. Pour paint into tins or bowls, and add water so that the thick paint becomes watery. Draw a design or picture on the paper with the crayons. If some are hesitant to draw a design, have them use a stencil design. Then, brush the watercolor paint all over the design. The background paper will be colored, but the crayon design will stay the same. Allow to dry.

JAMES LESSON 4 - ANSWERS

Read James chapter 2, verses 14 – 26.

This section of scripture on faith is difficult to understand. And we don't want you to be confused about faith. Paul states in Romans 3:28, "So we are saved by faith." And in Ephesians 2:8,9 Paul says, "Because of his kindness, you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even that trust is not your own. It, too, is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done. So none of us can take any credit for it." In these verses Paul was explaining how someone is saved. He shares the root, or bottom line, of salvation. James tells us what happens after we are saved. Our lives should show the evidence, or fruit, of our salvation.

For example, your mom has just returned from the store. You hope she has bought your favorite chocolate cookies. You believe she has. In faith, you peek into the cookie jar. The evidence, or fruit, that she did what you had faith in her to do is smeared all over your face. Your mom sees it and knows you had some chocolate cookies.

1. What does James say about faith in verse 17? "So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn't show itself by good works is dead and useless." [James is saying that faith isn't just some nicely spoken words. Christians must also demonstrate faith. It's like seeing someone in need and saying, "Trust in Jesus to answer your need." A Christian would follow up his words with actions to help the one in need. Works do not bring salvation, but demonstrate saving faith in action. James is trying to demonstrate there is a difference between words of faith alone, or the faith plus an outpouring of works. It's like saying, "Put your money where your mouth is".]
2. What do the demons believe? Verse 19: "Are there still some among you who hold that 'only believing' is enough? Is believing in one God enough? Well, remember that the demons believe this. And they shake with fear!"
3. What does James say about Abraham's faith and actions? Verse 22: "He had enough faith to do whatever God told him. His faith was made complete by what he did."
4. James calls Abraham "a friend of God," or "God's friend." Abraham did something that was very hard to do. God had asked him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham was willing to obey God. He didn't know what was going to happen. This story is told in Genesis 22:1-14. Since Isaac carried the wood for the altar, he questioned his father where the lamb was for the sacrifice. How did Abraham answer Isaac's question? See Genesis 22:8. "'God will see to it, my son,' Abraham replied. And they went on."

5. There are many people claiming to be Christians. They may even do nice things. Some know what the Bible says. But Jesus doesn't live in their hearts. Only God sees their hearts. He knows what they truly believe. How does Paul describe these people to Titus in Titus 1:16? "Such persons claim they know God. But from seeing the way they act, it is clear that they don't. They are rotten and disobedient. They are worthless so far as doing anything good is concerned."

Hebrews chapter 11 is known as the faith chapter of the Bible. There is a list of people who believed God, trusted Him, and obeyed Him. They proved their faith by their actions. You may want to read that chapter to see what it says about the people of faith who lived long ago.

6. When we watch a ball game, we cheer our favorite team on to victory. Read Hebrews 12:1 to find out who cheers for us in our Christian walk. "There is a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands. So let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back. Let us drop those sins that wrap around our feet and trip us up. Let us run with patience the race that God has set before us."

The crossword puzzle below is meant to be fun. You may want to try filling in the spaces before you look up the scriptures that follow the statement. Or you can read Hebrews 11, the faith chapter. All the answers can be found there. Not all answers will be special people of the Bible. Some answers may be places or things.

ACROSS

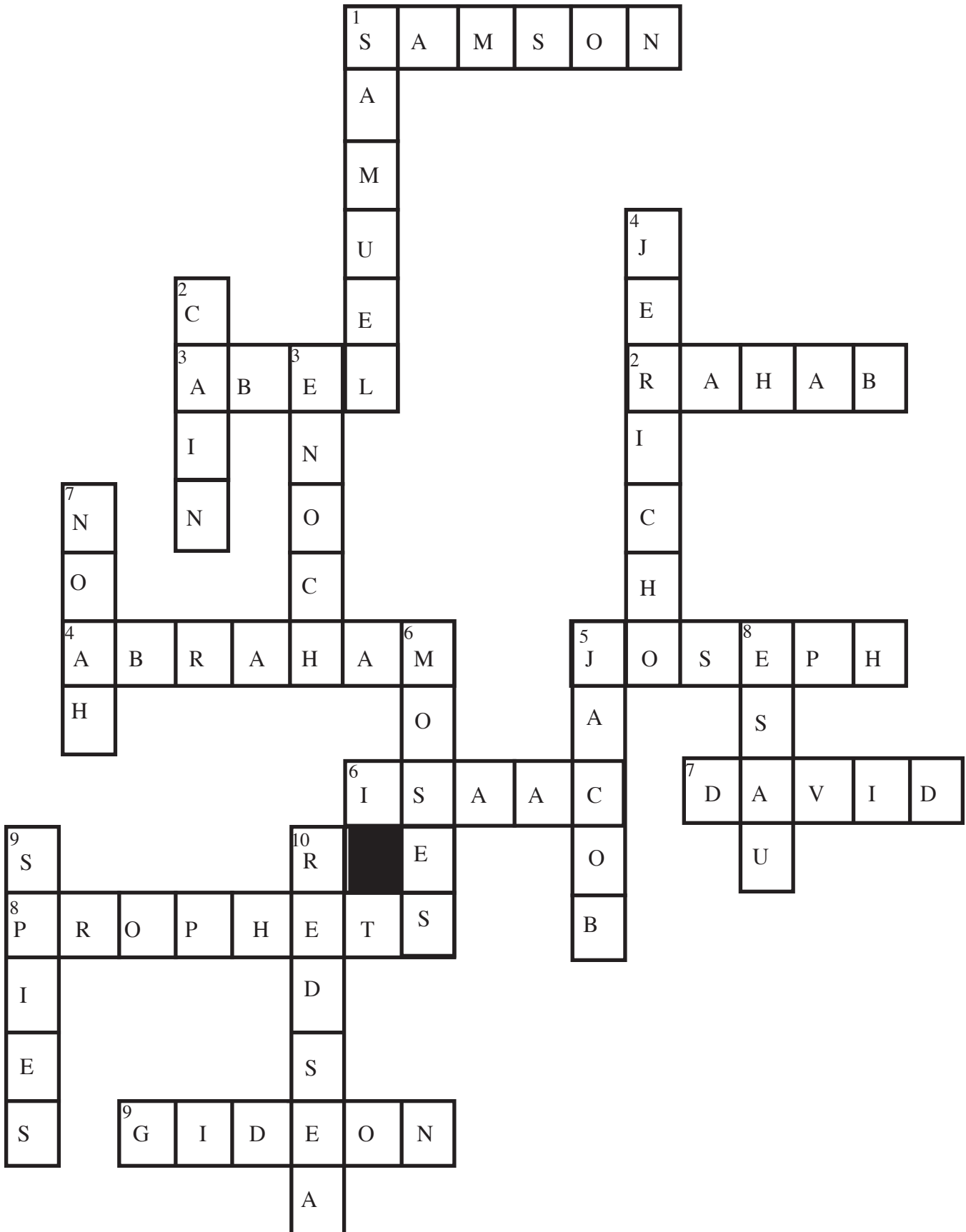
1. His long hair was the reason he was strong. Judges 16:17. **SAMSON** "So he told her everything. 'No razor has ever been used on my head,' he said, 'because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.'"
2. She hid Israel's spies. Judges 2:4. **RAHAB** "But she had hidden them. So she told the officer in charge, 'The men were here earlier. But I didn't know they were spies.'"
3. His brother killed him. Genesis 4:8. **ABEL** "One day Cain said to his brother, 'Let's go out into the fields.' And while they were there, Cain hit his brother and killed him."
4. He was called God's friend. James 2:23. **ABRAHAM** "So it happened just as the Bible says. Abraham trusted God, and the Lord declared him good. He was even called 'the friend of God.'"
5. His dad loved him so much, he gave him a beautiful coat. Genesis 37:3. **JOSEPH** "Now as it happened, Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other children. This was because Joseph was born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob gave him a special gift—a brightly colored coat."
6. His dad was willing to sacrifice him. Genesis 22:9. **ISAAC** "When they came to the place where God had told Abraham to go, he built an altar. He placed the wood in order, ready for the fire. Then he tied Isaac and laid him on the altar over the wood."

7. He was a shepherd before he was king. 1 Samuel 16:10-11. **DAVID** “The Lord has not chosen any of them,” Samuel told Jesse. ‘Are these all there are?’ ‘Well, there is the youngest,’ Jesse replied. ‘But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep.’ ‘Send for him at once,’ Samuel said. ‘For we will not sit down to eat until he gets here.’”
8. These men and women told things about Israel’s future. 1 Samuel 10:5. **PROPHETS** “After that you will come to Gilbeath-Elohim. It is also known as ‘God’s Hill.’ There is a Philistine outpost there. As you get there you will meet a band of prophets. They will be coming down the hill playing a psaltery, a timbrel, a flute, and a harp. They will be prophesying as they come.”
9. God used him and 300 men to beat a large Midian army. Judges 7:19-21. **GIDEON** “I’ll conquer the Midianites with these 300 men!” The Lord told Gideon. ‘Send all the others home!’”

DOWN

1. This man anointed David as king of Israel. 1 Samuel 16:13. **SAMUEL** “So David stood there among his brothers. And Samuel took the olive oil he had brought. He poured it on David’s head. And the Spirit of the Lord came down upon him. And the Lord gave him great power from that day onward. Then Samuel went back to Ramah.”
2. He killed his brother. Genesis 4:8. **CAIN** “One day Cain said to his brother, ‘Let’s go out into the fields.’ And while they were there, Cain hit his brother and killed him.”
3. This man walked with God right into heaven. Genesis 5:23-24. **ENOCH** “Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away” (NIV).
4. The Israelite army conquered this city when its walls came down. Joshua 6:20. **JERICHO**. “So, the people heard the trumpet blast. And when they did, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly the walls of Jericho crumbled and fell before them. And the people of Israel poured into the city! They attacked from every side and took it!”
5. He tricked his brother. Genesis 25:29-32. **JACOB** “Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, ‘Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!’ (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, ‘First sell me your birthright.’ Look, I am about to die,’ Esau said. ‘What good is the birthright to me?’” (NIV). [A birthright in those days meant the oldest son received 90%, or all, of the father’s holdings. He was the main heir.]
6. He saw a bush burn. Exodus 3:2. **MOSES** “Suddenly the Angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame of fire in a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn’t burn up.”
7. This man built a big boat. Genesis 6:12-14. **NOAH** “God saw how bad it was. He saw that all mankind was vicious and depraved. So he said to Noah, ‘I have decided to destroy all mankind. For the earth is filled with crime because of man. Yes, I will destroy mankind from the earth. Make a boat out of wood. Seal it with tar. And make decks and stalls throughout the ship.’”

8. He traded his inheritance for some stew. Genesis 25:33-34. **ESAU** “But Jacob said, ‘Swear to me first.’ So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright” (NIV).
9. Rahab hid them. Joshua 2:3,6. **SPIES** “The king sent a group of police to Rahab’s home. They demanded that she give them up. ‘They are spies,’ the police said. ‘They have been sent by the Israelite leaders to find the best way to attack us.’ But actually she had taken them up to the roof. She had hidden them under piles of flax that were drying there.”
10. Pharaoh’s army drowned here. Exodus 13:18, 14:21,27,28. **RED SEA** “And even though they had left Egypt armed, he thought they might turn back to Egypt. So instead, God led them along a route through the Red Sea wilderness” (NIV). “Meanwhile, Moses stretched his rod over the sea. The Lord opened up a path through the sea. There were walls of water on each side. And a strong east wind blew all that night. It dried the sea bottom....and the sea went back to normal beneath the morning light. The Egyptians tried to run. But the Lord drowned them in the sea. The water covered the path and the chariots and horsemen. All the army of Pharaoh that chased after Israel through the sea drowned. Not one of them survived.”



JAMES – LESSON 5

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it’s okay to write “I don’t know.”
- c. Think about what God’s Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 3, verses 1 – 12.

In James 2, we learned if we have faith in the Lord Jesus we will want to do something for Him and in His Name. Our faith in Jesus is lonely and could crumble if we don’t do something for Him, or have good deeds, done in Jesus’ name.

Every job uses a tool of some kind. In this next chapter we will learn about the teacher’s tool, which is the tongue. Although the tongue is the smallest muscle in the body, it can cause a lot of damage. The tongue can spread lies, gossip, say mean and unkind things that hurt people, and give false praise. But the tongue can also praise God, say something kind to someone, bring encouragement to sad people, express love. Sometimes, when you go to the doctor, he looks at your tongue. He can tell how well your body is by looking at your tongue. And the way you use your tongue tells what kind of person you are.

Below are some verses about the tongue. The tongue can reveal what a person is really like, inside where only God can see.

Psalm 34:12,13 “Do you want a long, good life? Then don’t let your tongue say anything evil. Don’t let your lips tell a lie.”

Psalm 50:19 “You curse and you lie. Bad words stream from your mouths.”

Psalm 52:2 “You are sharp as a tack in planning your evil tricks.”

Psalm 52:4 “You love to tell lies about people. You love to say anything that will do harm. You are a man with a lying tongue.”

Psalm 71:23,24 “I will shout and sing your praises for saving me. I will talk to others all day long about your fairness. I will tell them of your goodness. For all who tried to hurt me have been made ashamed.”

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”

Proverbs 15:4 “Gentle words cause life and health. Complaining brings sadness and trouble.”

Proverbs 25:23 “As a wind from the north brings cold, so a harsh answer causes anger!”

Romans 3:13 “Their talk is foul and dirty like the smell from an open grave. Their tongues are loaded with lies. Everything they say is like the sting and poison of deadly snakes.”

Philippians 2:11 “Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father.”

Below are some verses telling us about gifts from God.

Romans 11:29 “God’s gifts and his call can never be taken away. He will never go back on his promises.”

Romans 12:6,7 “God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. God may have given you the ability to prophesy. If so, you should prophesy as often as your faith is strong enough to do it. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching.”

1 Corinthians 12:1,4-6 “Now, brothers, about the special gifts the Holy Spirit gives you. I want you to understand them. God gives us many kinds of special gifts. It is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God. But it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives. But it is the same God who works in all of us.”

1. Teaching is a gift. From 1 Corinthians 12:28, who gives this gift?
2. James uses comparisons in James 3:3,4. For example, a large horse is controlled by a small bit in its mouth. A tiny rudder in the hands of a ship’s pilot controls a large ship. What does he say controls the body?
3. The tongue is the smallest muscle in the body. How do these verses describe this small muscle?

Psalms 10:7

Proverbs 16:27

Matthew 15:11,18,19

4. Man has tamed all kinds of animals. But there is one thing he has not been able to completely tame. What is it?

5. What action does Psalm 141:3 say we can do to help us control our tongue?

6. **RISKY:** Review James 3:10-12. From these verses you will be able to answer the following statements either TRUE or FALSE.
 - a. The tongue can praise God and curse man. _____
 - b. It is okay to praise God and curse man. _____
 - c. Fresh water and salt water can come from the same spring. _____
 - d. A fig tree grows olives on its branches. _____
 - e. A grapevine cannot grow figs. _____

7. What does Jesus say in Luke 6:28 about cursing?

Read James chapter 3, verses 13 – 18.

1. In James 1:5, we are told wisdom comes from God if we ask Him for it. What comes from wisdom?

2. James compares man's wisdom and God's wisdom. God's wisdom helps believers to grow in their understanding and knowledge of God. And the more one knows and understands the things of God, the more his life will be full of good deeds. But the more good deeds he does, the more humility he must have. What is NOT God's kind of wisdom?

3. What happens when there is more earthly wisdom than heavenly wisdom?
4. What happens when there is more heavenly wisdom than earthly wisdom?
5. When a person brags about how smart he is, or how much he knows, this is not wisdom from God. When someone thinks his opinion is better than anyone else's he does not have God's wisdom. This is called PRIDE. What does God's word say about pride in Proverbs 16:18?
6. The Bible often talks about wisdom. What do you learn about wisdom from these verses?

Psalm 111:10

Proverbs 9:10

7. James says God's wisdom helps believers to be peacemakers. What kind of crop do peacemakers harvest?

James contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom.

<u>WISDOM</u>	<u>MAN'S ATTITUDE</u>	<u>RESULTS IN</u>
Earthly	Envy Selfish ambition	Disorder and every evil practice
Heavenly	Purity Peacemaking Consideration of others Mercy Good fruit Impartiality Sincerity*	A harvest of righteousness

* From *Shepherd's Notes, James*, [Nashville, TN, Broadman & Holman, 1998], 51

JAMES - WEEK SIX

DISCUSSION LESSON 5

15 - 20 minutes free time - games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: HAT-CARD TOSS

You will need a deck of cards or a stack of 3" x 5" cards and a hat or other open-top container. All players stand behind the START line. Place the hat about five feet away from START (move closer if you find it necessary). You can allow all the cards, or a predetermined amount to be used. The first player pitches a card, into the hat. The cards in the hat are tallied after each play. The player with the most cards wins. To make it slightly harder, throw all the cards into the hat at once. The number landing inside the hat is counted, and the player with the highest score wins.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 5

to end of class CRAFT: BIBLE VERSE POT

MATERIALS

small flower pots
glitter glue
puffy paints
Tacky Glue
newspapers
Set of scriptures for each student (see next page)
large craft sticks (6 per student)

paint brushes
grass or artificial greenery
white glue
bowls

Cover work area with newspapers. Pour paint into bowls. Paint pots (OPTIONAL: Paint craft sticks.) Allow to dry. Pour glitter glue into another set of bowls and spread over dried pot. Allow to dry. Cut out the scripture verses and glue them to the craft sticks. OPTIONAL: Decorate with puffy paint or glitter glue. Fill pots with artificial greenery. Put craft stick in tubs with the greenery.

Scriptures to be glued on craft sticks. One set per student.

Psalm 10:7 *“[Evil men’s] mouths are full of lies. They are always bragging of their evil plans.”*

Proverbs 15:4 *“Gentle words cause life and health. Complaining brings sadness and trouble.”*

Proverbs 15:1 *“A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”*

Philippians 2:1 *“Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father.”*

Romans 11:29 *“God’s gifts and his call can never be taken away. He will never go back on his promises.”*

Psalm 119:36 *“Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.”*

Psalm 10:7 *“[Evil men’s] mouths are full of lies. They are always bragging of their evil plans.”*

Proverbs 15:4 *“Gentle words cause life and health. Complaining brings sadness and trouble.”*

Proverbs 15:1 *“A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”*

Philippians 2:1 *“Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father.”*

Romans 11:29 *“God’s gifts and his call can never be taken away. He will never go back on his promises.”*

Psalm 119:36 *Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.”*

JAMES LESSON 5 - ANSWERS

Read James chapter 3, verses 1 – 12

In James 2, we learned if we have faith in the Lord Jesus we will want to do something for Him and in His Name. Our faith in Jesus is lonely and could crumble if we don't do something for Him, or have good deeds done in His name.

Every job uses a tool of some kind. In this next chapter we will learn about the teacher's tool, which is the tongue. Although the tongue is the smallest muscle in the body, it can cause a lot of damage. The tongue can spread lies, gossip, say mean and unkind things that hurt people, and give false praise. But the tongue can also praise God, say something kind to someone, bring encouragement to sad people, express love. Sometimes, when you go to the doctor, he looks at your tongue. He can tell how well your body is by looking at your tongue. And the way you use your tongue tells the kind of person you are.

Below are some verses about the tongue. The tongue can reveal what a person is really like, inside where only God can see.

Psalm 34:12,13 “Do you want a long, good life? Then don't let your tongue say anything evil. Don't let your lips tell a lie.”

Psalm 50:19 “You curse and you lie. Bad words stream from your mouths.”

Psalm 52:2 “You are sharp as a tack in planning your evil tricks.”

Psalm 52:4 “You love to tell lies about people. You love to say anything that will do harm. You are a man with a lying tongue.”

Psalm 71:23,24 “I will shout and sing your praises for saving me. I will talk to others all day long about your fairness. I will tell them of your goodness. For all who tried to hurt me have been made ashamed.”

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away anger. But harsh words cause fights.”

Proverbs 15:4 “Gentle words cause life and health. Complaining brings sadness and trouble.”

Proverbs 25:23 “As a wind from the north brings cold, so a harsh answer causes anger!”

Romans 3:13 “Their talk is foul and dirty like the smell from an open grave. Their tongues are loaded with lies. Everything they say is like the sting and poison of deadly snakes.”

Philippians 2:11 “Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is to the glory of God the Father.”

Below are some verses telling us about gifts from God.

Romans 11:29 “God’s gifts and his call can never be taken away. He will never go back on his promises.”

Romans 12:6,7 “God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. God may have given you the ability to prophesy. If so, you should prophesy as often as your faith is strong enough to do it. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teachers, do a good job of teaching.”

1 Corinthians 12:1,4-6 “Now, brothers, about the special gifts the Holy Spirit gives you. I want you to understand them. God gives us many kinds of special gifts. It is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God. But it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives. But it is the same God who works in all of us.”

1. Teaching is a gift. From 1 Corinthians 12:28, who gives this gift? “And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues”(NIV). [Teaching carries with it the responsibility to teach the truth. Over the course of a lifetime, the teacher’s words affect many lives. One who teaches God’s word is claiming to have a clearer understanding of the scriptures. Therefore, he is to obey the Bible’s teachings more strictly. James is directing his comments on teaching to those visitors given freedom to comment in the church meetings. Teachers provide instruction and exhortation, therefore their primary tool is speech and the tongue is the instrument used.]
2. James uses comparisons in James 3:3,4. For example, a large horse is controlled by a small bit in its mouth. A tiny rudder in the hands of a ship’s pilot controls a large ship. What does he say controls the body? Verse 2: “We all make many mistakes. When teachers do wrong, their punishment will be greater than it would be for others. If anyone can control his tongue, it proves he has control over himself.”
3. The tongue is the smallest muscle in the body. How do these verses describe this small muscle?

Psalm 10:7 “[Evil men’s] mouths are full of lies. They are always bragging of their evil plans.”

Proverbs 16:27 “Hands without any work to do are used by the devil. Lips with nothing good to say are the devil’s mouthpiece.”

Matthew 15:11,18,19 “You aren’t made unholy by eating without washing your hands. It is what you say and think that makes you unclean. But evil words come from an evil heart. This makes the man who says them unholy. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, theft, lying and slander.”

4. Man has tamed all kinds of animals. But there is one thing he has not been able to completely tame. What is it? Verse 8: “But no human being can tame the tongue. It is always ready to pour out its deadly poison.”
5. What action does Psalm 141:3 say we can do to help us control our tongue? “Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut. Help me to keep my lips sealed.”
6. **RISKY:** Review James 3:10-12. From these verses you will be able to answer the following statements either TRUE or FALSE.
 - a. The tongue can praise God and curse man. TRUE
 - b. It is okay to praise God and curse man. FALSE
 - c. Fresh water and salt water can come from the same spring. FALSE
 - d. A fig tree grows olives on its branches. FALSE
 - e. A grapevine cannot grow figs. TRUE
7. What does Jesus say in Luke 6:28 about cursing? “Pray for the happiness of those who curse you. Ask God to bless those who hurt you.”

Read James chapter 3, verses 13 – 18.

1. In James 1:5, we are told wisdom comes from God if we ask Him for it. What comes from wisdom? Verse 13: “If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness. Then only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don’t brag about them, then you will be truly wise.”
2. James compares man’s wisdom and God’s wisdom. God’s wisdom helps believers to grow in their understanding and knowledge of God. And the more one knows and understands the things of God, the more his life will be full of good deeds. But, the more good deeds he does, the more humility he must have. What is NOT God’s kind of wisdom? Verse 15: “Jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and inspired by the devil.”
3. What happens when there is more earthly wisdom than heavenly wisdom? Verse 16: “Wherever there is jealousy or ambition, there will be disorder and every kind of evil.”
4. What happens when there is more heavenly wisdom than earthly wisdom? Verse 17: “But the wisdom that comes from Heaven is pure. It is full of quiet gentleness. And so it is peace-loving and polite. It allows debate and is willing to give in to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It is real and direct and heartfelt.”

5. When a person brags about how smart he is, or how much he knows, this is not wisdom from God. When someone thinks his opinion is better than anyone else's he does not have God's wisdom. This is called PRIDE. What does God's word say about pride in Proverbs 16:18? "Pride will destroy you. It will make you fall."

6. The Bible often talks about wisdom. What do you learn about wisdom from these verses?

Psalm 111:10 "How can men be wise? The only way to begin is by respecting God. For growth in wisdom comes from obeying his laws. Praise his name forever."

Proverbs 9:10 "For the respect and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding."

7. James says God's wisdom helps believers to be peacemakers. What kind of crop do peacemakers harvest? Verse 18: "Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and harvest a crop of goodness."

James contrasts earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom.

<u>WISDOM</u>	<u>MAN'S ATTITUDE</u>	<u>RESULTS IN</u>
Earthly	Envy Selfish ambition	Disorder and every evil practice
Heavenly	Purity Peacemaking Consideration of others Mercy Good fruit Impartiality Sincerity*	A harvest of righteousness

* From Shepherd's Notes, James, [Nashville, TN, Broadman & Holman, 1998], 51

JAMES – LESSON 6

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it’s okay to write “I don’t know.”
- c. Think about what God’s Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. What is the first question James asked his readers and how does he answer that question with a question?
2. How does Titus answer James’ question in Titus 3:9?
3. What do people do when they don’t get what they want? And, why don’t they get what they want?
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you make a list of what you want for your birthday or Christmas? Do you get all of the things you want? Underline the word that comes closest to your answer. **SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER**
5. What is one reason James gives his readers for not getting everything they want?
6. **PERSONAL:** Can you pray Psalm 119:36? “Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain” (NIV).

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:5-7 “But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith. You must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. You must know God better and find out what he wants you to do. Next, learn to put aside your own desires. That way you will become patient and godly. You will gladly let God have his way with you. This will make possible the next step. This step is for you to enjoy other people and to like them. Finally you will grow to love them deeply.”

Read James chapter 4, verses 4 – 7.

The dictionary gives this definition for UNFAITHFUL: “Not faithful; false to a promise or duty; disloyal” (HOLT).

1. Why does James call his readers unfaithful?

Paul tells his readers in 1 Corinthians 6:11, “There was a time when some of you were like this. But now your sins are washed away. You are set apart for God. He has accepted you. Why? Because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God have done.”

The dictionary gives this definition for the word COMPROMISE: “Settlement of differences in which each side yields something” (HOLT). When Christians do some of the same things the world does because they don’t seem to be “too bad,” that’s called compromise. It is then that Christians stop being set apart for God, and God calls this sin. We know Christians are set apart because that’s what Peter says in 1 Peter 2:9: “But you are not like that. You have been chosen by God himself. You are priests of the King. You are holy and pure. You are God’s very own. Now you can tell how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

2. List the sins found in 1 Corinthians 6:8-10.

3. **PERSONAL:** What do you think “friendship with the world” means?

4. **PERSONAL:** If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, you don’t live like the world does. Jesus took God’s punishment you deserve for your sins. If you do sin, you can confess that to God and He will forgive you. If Jesus Christ isn’t your Lord and Savior, wouldn’t you like to be clean from your sins and not be punished by God for them? 1 John 1:8,9 says: “If we say that we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves. We are refusing to accept the truth. If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

5. **PERSONAL:** If your mom tells you it’s time to clean up, how long does it take for you to obey her? Does she get upset with you when she needs to tell you more than once to clean up the mess you made? If you clean up the mess the first time she tells you, you are submitting yourself to her authority, or you are giving up your desire to continue to play. You please God when you submit to your mom’s authority the first time she asks you to do something.

6. To submit means “to give way or yield to the power or authority of another.” What does Romans 8:6,7 say about submitting to God?
7. **HARD:** Matthew 4:1-11 tells us that after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert. After 40 days of being in the desert and not eating, Satan tempted Jesus. He told Jesus to change the stones into bread, to jump from the Temple roof, and promised to give Jesus the world if Jesus would worship him. With each temptation, Jesus answered in a certain way. Read that passage to find out how Jesus answered.
8. **PERSONAL:** Have you chosen a verse to memorize yet? Jesus knew His Bible so well, He knew Satan’s lies and answered him with scripture. Jesus used scripture to rebuke Satan. Do you know enough scripture to answer the lies Satan might toss at you? If you don’t find a verse to memorize in this lesson, try one of those listed below.

1 Peter 5:8,9 “Watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion. He is always looking for someone to tear apart. Stand firm when he attacks. Trust the Lord. Remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too.”

2 Timothy 3:16,17 “The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God. It is useful to teach us what is true. It helps us to know what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It makes us well prepared and fully equipped to do good to everyone.”

2 Peter 1:20,21 “No prophecy in the Bible was thought up by the prophet himself. The Holy Spirit within these godly men gave them true messages from God.”

Read James chapter 4, verses 8 – 12.

1. When Christians decide to ask God for help, He is very anxious to meet our needs. What does Hebrews 4:16 say is one way we can meet God?
2. Before you eat your mom tells you to wash your hands. You might say “they’re not dirty,” because you can’t see the dirt. What do these verses say about the dirt of our sins?

Isaiah 64:6

1 John 1:8

3. James 4:10 says we are to humble ourselves before God. Humble is the opposite of being proud or boasting about yourself. What do these verses say about being humble?

Psalm 25:9

Proverbs 16:18

4. What does James say you are fighting against when you don't talk nice to or about someone?
5. Who does Isaiah say, in Isaiah 33:22, is the Lawgiver and Judge?

Read James chapter 4, verses 13 – 17.

1. **RISKY:** Everyone makes plans for each day. Sometimes the plans are a long way off in the future. But does anyone really know the future? It's okay to make plans that we can change. But we shouldn't make plans that cannot be changed. Why?
2. How should plans for the future be made?
3. Who controls what we should do from day to day? Who is this person, found in Proverbs 16:33?
4. What does James call sin?

JAMES – WEEK SEVEN

DISCUSSION LESSON 6

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship; or you may want to begin the craft early.

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: “KNOCK, KNOCK”

Players sit on the floor, behind IT, who is seated on a chair in front of them, facing forward. Someone is chosen to knock on the back of IT’s chair. IT asks, “Who’s there?” Knocker disguises voice and says, “Who am I?” IT is allowed three tries to guess who the knocker is. If IT guesses correctly, “Knocker” becomes IT. If IT cannot guess, he looks to see the knocker, and remains IT until he can name a knocker. Or you may wish to have “knocker” be IT in order to give everyone a chance at guessing.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 6

to end of class CRAFT: DECORATIVE PENCIL HOLDER

MATERIALS

1 skein rug yarn	felt squares
pencil	scissors
liquid white glue	newspapers
bowls	paint brushes
clean soup can or orange juice cans	sandpaper
sequins, buttons, artificial flowers and other trim you desire	

Be sure cans are completely clean and there are no rough edges. You may have to sand some of the edges smooth. Cover work area with newspapers. Pour glue into bowls. Place felt squares on paper, and the can on top of the felt. Draw two circles, one circle for the outside bottom, and one for the inside bottom. Glue in place and allow to dry. Brush a small amount of glue onto can, one layer at a time. Glue one end of yarn to the bottom edge of the can; wind yarn around can one row at a time. Press yarn to can to help secure in place. Continue wrapping yarn around can until completely covered. When dry, decorate as desired. Then give the pencil holder as a gift for someone’s desk.

NOTE: Keep wet paper towels on hand so fingers stay clean. Glue on the fingers tend to make yarn harder to handle.

JAMES LESSON 6 – ANSWERS

Read James chapter 4, verses 1 – 3.

1. What is the first question James asked his readers and how does he answer that question with a question? Verse 1: “What is causing the fights among you? Isn’t it because there is a whole army of evil desires within you?” [We must remember James is writing to Christians. In James 3:1, he calls his readers ‘Brothers’ and in James 4:11, ‘dear brothers.’ The evil desires are such as wanting to always be first, or always winning, having better and bigger toys, buying name brand clothes, having lots of money to buy whatever we want. And if we don’t get what we want, sometimes we fight to get them.]
2. How does Titus answer James’ question in Titus 3:9? “Don’t argue about foolish questions and ideas. And don’t argue and quarrel about obeying the Jewish laws. This kind of thing isn’t worthwhile. It only does harm.”
3. What do people do when they don’t get what they want? And, why don’t they get what they want? Verse 2: “You want what you don’t have. So you **kill** to get it! You **long for** what others have. So you start a **fight to take it** away! Why don’t you have what you want? Because you **don’t ask God** for it.”
4. **PERSONAL:** Do you make a list of what you want for your birthday or Christmas? Do you get all of the things you want? Underline the word that comes closest to your answer. **SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER**
5. What is one reason James gives his readers for not getting everything they want? Verse 3: “When you do ask you don’t get it because your whole aim is wrong. You want only what will make you happy.”
6. **PERSONAL:** Can you pray Psalm 119:36? “Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain” (NIV).

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:5-7 “But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith. You must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. You must know God better and find out what he wants you to do. Next, learn to put aside your own desires. That way you will become patient and godly. You will gladly let God have his way with you. This will make possible the next step. This step is for you to enjoy other people and to like them. Finally you will grow to love them deeply.”

Read James chapter 4, verses 4 – 7.

The dictionary gives this definition for UNFAITHFUL: “Not faithful; false to a promise or duty; disloyal” (HOLT).

1. Why does James call his readers unfaithful? Verse 4: “You are like an unfaithful wife who loves her husband’s enemies. Don’t you know that making friends with this world makes you an enemy of God? If you enjoy the pleasure of the world, you cannot be a friend of God.” [The Christian life-style is to be different than the world’s. Christians are to be “set apart” from the world. The Christian should be different, and live in such a way as to call the world to salvation. Christians cannot love the ways of the world and love God, too.]

Paul tells his readers in 1 Corinthians 6:11, “There was a time when some of you were like this. But now your sins are washed away. You are set apart for God. He has accepted you. Why? Because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of God have done.”

The dictionary gives this definition for the word COMPROMISE: “Settlement of differences in which each side yields something” (HOLT). When Christians do some of the same things the world does because they don’t seem to be “too bad,” that’s called compromise. It is then that Christians stop being set apart for God, and God calls this sin. We know Christians are set apart because that’s what Peter says in 1 Peter 2:9: “But you are not like that. You have been chosen by God himself. You are priests of the King. You are holy and pure. You are God’s very own. Now you can tell how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

2. List the sins found in 1 Corinthians 6:8-10. “Instead, you yourselves are the ones who do wrong. You **cheat others**, even your own brothers. Don’t you know that those doing such things can’t share in God’s Kingdom? Don’t fool yourselves. If you live in **sin, worship idols**, are an **adulterer** or **homosexual** you can’t share his Kingdom, neither can **thieves** or **greedy people, drunkards, slanderers, or robbers.** [To slander someone is “false oral statement made with malice to hurt a person’s reputation; also, the utterance of such a statement” (HOLT).]
3. **PERSONAL:** What do you think “friendship with the world” means? Doing the same things as everyone in the world does.
4. **PERSONAL:** If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, you don’t live like the world does. Jesus took God’s punishment you deserve for your sins. If you do sin, you can confess that to God and He will forgive you. If Jesus Christ isn’t your Lord and Savior, wouldn’t you like to be clean from your sins and not be punished by God for them? 1 John 1:8,9 says: “If we say that we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves. We are refusing to accept the truth. If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”
5. **PERSONAL:** If your mom tells you it’s time to clean up, how long does it take for you to obey her? Does she get upset with you when she needs to tell you more than once to clean up the mess you made? If you clean up the mess the first time she tells you, you are submitting yourself to her authority, or you are giving up your desire to continue to play. You please God when you submit to your mom’s authority the first time she asks you to do something.

6. To submit means “to give way or yield to the power or authority of another.” What does Romans 8:6,7 say about submitting to God? “The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so” (NIV).
7. **HARD:** Matthew 4:1-11 tells us that after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert. After 40 days of being in the desert and not eating, Satan tempted Jesus. He told Jesus to change the stones into bread, to jump from the Temple roof, and promised to give Jesus the world if Jesus would worship him. With each temptation, Jesus answered in a certain way. Read that passage to find out how Jesus answered. Jesus quoted scripture. With the bread temptation Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3 “man does not live by bread alone.” With the jump temptation Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16 “Do not test the Lord your God.” And with the world temptation, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13 “Fear the Lord your God, serve him only.”
8. **PERSONAL:** Have you chosen a verse to memorize yet? Jesus knew His Bible so well, He knew Satan’s lies and answered him with scripture. Jesus used scripture to rebuke Satan. Do you know enough scripture to answer the lies Satan might toss at you? If you don’t find a verse to memorize in this lesson, try one of those listed below.

1 Peter 5:8,9 “Watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion. He is always looking for someone to tear apart. Stand firm when he attacks. Trust the Lord. Remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too.”

2 Timothy 3:16,17 “The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God. It is useful to teach us what is true. It helps us to know what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It makes us well prepared and fully equipped to do good to everyone.”

2 Peter 1:20,21 “No prophecy in the Bible was thought up by the prophet himself. The Holy Spirit within these godly men gave them true messages from God.”

Read James chapter 4, verses 8 – 12.

1. When Christians decide to ask God for help, He is very anxious to meet our needs. What does Hebrews 4:16 say is one way we can meet God? “So let us come boldly to the throne of God. There he will give us his mercy. And there we will find grace to help in times of need.”
2. Before you eat your mom tells you to wash your hands. You might say “they’re not dirty,” because you can’t see the dirt. What do these verses say about the dirt of our sins?

Isaiah 64:6 “We are all infected and impure with sin. We put on our robes of righteousness, but we find they are dirty rags. Like the leaves in fall, we fade, dry up, and fall down. And our sins, like the wind, blow us away.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves. We are refusing to accept the truth.”

3. James 4:10 says we are to humble ourselves before God. Humble is the opposite of being proud or boasting about yourself. What do these verses say about being humble?

Psalm 25:9 “He will teach the ways that are right and best. He will lead all those who humbly turn to him.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride will destroy you. It will make you fall.”

4. What does James say you are fighting against when you don't talk nice to or about someone? Verse 11: “Don't speak against each other, dear brothers. If you do, you are fighting against God's law. In fact, you are saying it is wrong. Your job is not to decide whether this law is right or wrong. You are to obey it.”
5. Who does Isaiah say, in Isaiah 33:22, is the Lawgiver and Judge? “For the Lord is our Judge. He is our Lawgiver and our King. He will care for us and save us.”

Read James chapter 4, verses 13 – 17.

1. **RISKY:** Everyone makes plans for each day. And sometimes the plans are a long way off in the future. But does anyone really know the future? It's okay to make plans that we can change. But we shouldn't make plans that cannot be changed. Why? Verse 14: “How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is like the morning fog. Now you see it. But soon it is gone.”
2. How should plans for the future be made? Verse 15: “You should say, ‘If the Lord lets us, we shall live. We will do this or that.’”
3. Who controls what we should do from day to day? Who is this person, found in Proverbs 16:33? “We toss the coin, but it is the Lord who controls its decision.”
4. What does James call sin? Verse 17: “And remember this! Do you do what you know is right? If you don't, you are sinning.”

JAMES - LESSON 7

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it's okay to write "I don't know."
- c. Think about what God's Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verses on your paper.

Read James chapter 5, verses 1 – 6.

1. Why did James tell those who were rich that they were going to have terrible troubles, and that they will cry?

2. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:10 "the love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it." This means if we love money more than God, we might do anything to get it. That includes lying, cheating, stealing, or maybe even killing to get it. What does Jesus teach in Matthew 6:19-21?

3. What does Paul add in 1 Timothy 6:6,7,9?

4. How does 1 Timothy 6:11-12 encourage Timothy, and you, to build your treasure in heaven and not on earth?

5. Whose cries does the Lord hear according to James 5:4?

6. How have the rich lived?

Read James chapter 5, verses 7 – 12.

1. In Matthew 16:27 what does Jesus tell His disciples about Himself?
2. One of the first Bible verses we learn is John 3:16 which says “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.” Most of the time, we don’t bother to learn verse 17. Who is the judge and what is he judging?
3. James reminds his readers to be patient, to stand firm, or “keep the faith.” There should be no arguing, or grumbling, with or about other believers, and believers are not to judge because the judge is already at the door. Jesus will be the Judge. What does Paul say Jesus will judge in 1 Corinthians 4:5?
4. We read in James 5:10 that the prophets were patient and continued to speak the name of the Lord in spite of what happened to them. How did the prophets suffer according to following verses?

2 Chronicles 24:21

Jeremiah 20:2

Jeremiah 37:15,16

Matthew 5:11,12

5. James 5:12 says in *The Bible for Children, Simplified Living Bible Text*, “Most of all, brothers, don’t swear by Heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no. That way you won’t sin and be guilty for it.” Today someone might say “I swear to God” or “Honest to God.” Christians should not say such things. It’s like cursing with the Lord’s name. It also shows that the person who says those things often lies. There are times when we must promise to tell the truth like in a court of law. James says once we have decided to do something, we must keep that promise. What does Numbers 30:2 say about making a vow to God or promising to tell the truth?

Read James chapter 5, verses 13 – 20.

1. **CHALLENGE:** In this part of the book James talks about prayer. The following verses are on prayer too. Look up the scripture references to match the correct word with each passage.

joyful praying thankful praises

Always be _____ . 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Always keep on _____ . 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Always be _____ . 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Always bring _____ . James 5:13

2. What does James say about prayer in James 5:16?

3. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you chose to memorize and hide in your heart?

JAMES – WEEK EIGHT

DISCUSSION LESSON 7

15 – 20 minutes free time – games, fellowship; you may want to begin the craft early.

15 – 20 minutes snack and group recreation: MESSAGE RELAY

Divide into teams. (Beforehand the leader writes down enough Bible verses so that each team has one verse. The verses can be those from today’s lesson, or familiar ones, each of similar length. To keep the game interesting, if you use a familiar verse, use it in a translation that might be unfamiliar to the players.) Place verses in a bowl in front of the teams. At the signal, the first person in line for each team runs to the bowl and picks up a verse. After looking at the verse, players run back to their teams and whisper the verse (or read it) to the next player. First player gives the written verse to the leader. Each team member in turn whispers the verse to the next one until the last member to receive it runs to the leader and repeats the verse. The team whose final member first recites their verse correctly is the winning team.

15 – 20 minutes discuss LESSON 7

to end of class CRAFT: UNCOMMON CANDLES

MATERIALS

paper towel cardboard centers	spray paint
large, cleaned egg shell halves	small votive candles
decorative trim	newspapers
scissors	pencils

Cover work area with newspapers. Cut the paper towel rolls into 2-inch sections. Spray paint the “candle holder” and allow to dry. Glue the decorative trim around the candle holder; allow to dry. Place one half of a cleaned egg shell in candle holder. Carefully, place votive in the egg shell. Make at least two candle holders per student.

JAMES LESSON 7 - ANSWERS

Read James chapter 5, verses 1 – 6.

1. Why did James tell those who were rich that they were going to have terrible troubles, and that they will cry? Verses 2,3: “Your wealth is even now rotting away. Your fine clothes are becoming moth-eaten rags. The value of your gold and silver is dropping fast. It will stand as proof against you. It will eat your flesh like a fire. That is what you have stored up for the Day of Judgment.” [This bit of advice is for those who make money their main goal in life. James is trying to warn folks in his day, and on into history that their wealth alone will not buy eternal life. James paints a vivid word picture for then and now. “Wealth” that is hoarded will be gone someday, or can be stolen. Someday, even the “clothing” become rags. Although the metals of “gold and silver” can not rust, they can’t buy happiness, health, love, or eternity.]
2. Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:10 “the love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sin. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it.” This means if we love money more than God, we might do anything to get it. That includes lying, cheating, stealing, or maybe even killing to get it. What does Jesus teach in Matthew 6:19-21? “Don’t store up treasures here on earth. For they can rust away or they might be stolen. Store them in Heaven where they will never lose their value. And there, they are safe from robbers. If your treasures are in Heaven, your heart will be there, too.”
3. What does Paul add in 1 Timothy 6:6,7,9? “Do you want to be truly rich? You already are if you are happy and good. After all, we didn’t bring any money with us when we came into the world. We can’t carry away a single penny when we die. But people who long to be rich do all kinds of wrong things for money. They do things that hurt them and make them evil-minded. Finally these things send them to hell itself.”
4. How does 1 Timothy 6:11-12 encourage Timothy, and you, to build your treasure in heaven and not on earth? “O Timothy, you are God’s man. Run from evil things. Work instead at doing what is right and good. Learn to trust him and love others and to be patient and gentle. Fight on for God. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you. Hold on to the good confession you have spoken before many people.”
5. Whose cries does the Lord hear according to James 5:4? “For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers you have cheated of their pay. Their cries have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven’s armies.”
6. How have the rich lived? Verse 5: “You have spent your years here on earth having fun. You have satisfied your every desire. Now your fat hearts are ready to be killed.”

Read James chapter 5, verses 7 – 12.

1. In Matthew 16:27 what does Jesus tell His disciples about Himself? “For I, the Messiah, shall come with my angels in my Father’s glory. I will judge each person according to his deeds.”
2. One of the first Bible verses we learn is John 3:16 which says “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life.” Most of the time, we don’t bother to learn verse 17. Who is the judge and what is he judging? “God did not send his Son into the world to judge it. He sent his Son to save it.”
3. James reminds his readers to be patient, to stand firm, or “keep the faith.” There should be no arguing, or grumbling, with or about other believers, and believers are not to judge because the judge is already at the door. Jesus will be the Judge. What does Paul say Jesus will judge in 1 Corinthians 4:5? “Be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns. You should not decide if someone is a good servant or not. When the Lord comes he will turn on the lights. Everyone will see what each one of us is like deep in our hearts. And everyone will know why we have been doing the Lord’s work. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is coming to him.”
4. We read in James 5:10 that the prophets were patient and continued to speak the name of the Lord in spite of what happened to them. How did the prophets suffer according to following verses?

2 Chronicles 24:21 “Then the leaders plotted to kill Zechariah. Finally King Joash himself ordered him to be killed in the Temple court.”

Jeremiah 20:2 “So he arrested Jeremiah and had him whipped and put in the stocks. The stocks stood at the Benjamin Gate near the Temple.”

Jeremiah 37:15,16 “They were angry with Jeremiah. So they had him beaten and put into the prison. This was under the house of Jonathan the scribe. Jeremiah was kept there for several days.”

Matthew 5:11,12 “You might be laughed at and treated badly because you follow me. Others might even lie about you. But if this happens, great! Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward is waiting for you up in Heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were treated badly, too.”

5. James 5:12 says in *The Bible for Children, Simplified Living Bible Text*, “Most of all, brothers, don’t swear by Heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no. That way you won’t sin and be guilty for it.” Today someone might say “I swear to God” or “Honest to God.” Christians should not say such things. It’s like cursing with the Lord’s name. It also shows that the person who says those things often lies. There are times when we must promise to tell the

truth like in a court of law. James says once we have decided to do something, we must keep that promise. What does Numbers 30:2 say about making a vow to God or promising to tell the truth? “Someone might make a promise to the Lord. This might be either to do something or to quit doing something. If such a promise is made, it must not be broken. The person making the promise must do exactly as he has said.”

Read James chapter 5, verses 13 – 20.

1. **CHALLENGE:** In this part of the book James talks about prayer. The following verses are on prayer too. Look up the scripture references to match the correct word with each passage.

joyful praying thankful praises

Always be joyful . 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Always keep on praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Always be thankful. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Always bring praises . James 5:13

2. What does James say about prayer in James 5:16? “Tell each other when you do wrong. Pray for each other. Then you will be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.” [The term used for healing here is not the medical term for healing. “The word James uses means *made whole and forgiven*. When we anoint with oil and pray for healing, we should anticipate God’s response. Prayer for healing depends on many factors, but spiritual wholeness should be our highest desire. While God may or may not provide physical healing, he will always offer wholeness and forgiveness” (QUEST BIBLE notes NIV).]
3. **PERSONAL:** Which verse did you chose to memorize and hide in your heart?