

Week 1 Discussion Guide - Sept 7

Read **James 1:1-4** and discuss the following.

What do we know about this book, its author, and its recipients? How might this inform our reading? Explain.

How do you tend to view trials? How does this passage confirm or challenge your understanding of hardships and suffering?

James addresses trials in a very general sense. List the various kinds of suffering that believers can undergo.

According to these verses, what is the ultimate purpose for our trials? Have you personally witnessed the spiritual benefit of suffering? If so, how?

Consider the concept of spiritual wholeness. What does this entail? Do you typically think of your faith in this way? If not, which area is most neglected?

What do you hope to personally gain from this series?

Week 2 Discussion Guide - Sept 14

Read **James 1:5-11** and discuss the following.

Share times when your need for wisdom is most evident.

How does this passage connect with the preceding verses we discussed last week?

Have you ever been a spiritually “*double-minded*” person? If so, share your experience. How does Scripture describe such individuals?

In your own words, describe the point being made in **verses 9-11**.

What fundamental truths about the Lord can we take away from this passage?

What do you need wisdom for today? Take time to pray for one another.

Week 3 Discussion Guide - Sept 21

Read **James 1:12-18** and discuss the following.

What does this passage have to say about temptation? Where does it come from? Where can it eventually lead us?

How is temptation similar to testing? How is it different? How are these two often connected?

How might this passage motivate resistance? How does it offer reassurance to the one who has stumbled?

What does this passage teach us about God? What does it say about us? How does this most encourage you?

According to this passage, how are we prone to being deceived? How might we safeguard ourselves from this? How can we help one another?

Week 4 Discussion Guide - Sept 28

Read **James 1:19-27** and discuss the following.

Which is most difficult for you—being quick to hear, slow to speak, or slow to anger? Describe the circumstances or situations when you find these commands particularly difficult.

How well do you listen to God's word? According to our passage of study, how can we know whether or not we are listening well?

Have you ever confused knowledge of God's Word with obedience to God's Word? Why is it so easy to be deceived into thinking simply hearing is enough? Explain. Discuss some tangible ways we can grow in this area.

What is "*the law of liberty*"? How have you personally experienced blessing from obedience?

James concludes chapter 1 with some examples of what he calls "*pure and undefiled religion.*" How is each evidence of genuine faith?

Week 5 Discussion Guide - Oct 5

Read **James 2:1-13** and discuss the following.

Describe the kind of situation James is addressing. Does this type of thing still happen today? Share some examples.

Have you ever been treated differently than others—perhaps discriminated against while others were shown favoritism? How did that make you feel?

Can you think of a time when you've practiced partiality? Are you presently in danger of doing this? Explain.

Why is discriminating against poor believers in favor of the wealthy considered sinful? Rather than showing partiality, what should we do?

When is it most difficult for you to be merciful? How can we help one another to become more Christlike in this area?

Week 6 Discussion Guide - Oct 12

Read **James 2:14-26** and discuss the following.

In your own words, describe the relationship between faith and works.

How might overemphasizing works or misunderstanding their relationship to faith be detrimental?

Why is mere belief insufficient? What example is given to prove this point?

This passage provided some examples of how faith (or the lack of it) might be evidenced. List these examples. Can you think of any others?

What two OT examples are given in the text? How do these individuals display their genuine faith? Discuss how they are alike and different.

How are you comforted and/or convicted by this passage?

Week 7 Discussion Guide - Oct 19

Read **James 3:1-12** and discuss the following.

Despite its relatively small size, James says a tongue can do a lot of damage. List the examples provided in this passage. How have you experienced the truth of this assessment?

When do you have the greatest difficulty taming your tongue? What helps you control your words? How might we become more thoughtful in our speech?

This passage mentions two contrasting things we do with our tongue. What two things are given? Is this something you regularly consider? Why or why not?

What does your tongue reveal about your heart?

Have you been lax with your tongue lately? Have you missed opportunities to make much of the Lord with your words?

Take turns sharing before praying together for one another.

Week 8 Discussion Guide - Oct 26

Read **James 3:13-4:6** and discuss the following.

What does false, earthly wisdom look like? Discuss the examples given in the text.

According to this passage, what does true, heavenly wisdom look like?

Consider a conflict that you have been involved in. What caused the conflict? What did it reveal about your heart? Did it impact your prayer life? Explain.

In your estimation, what makes friendship with the world so enticing? Why do well-intended believers often struggle with this?

Take a moment to consider **4:5-6** together. What most stands out to you? How is this particularly encouraging to you in this season of life?

Week 9 Discussion Guide - Nov 2

Read **James 4:7-12** and discuss the following.

According to this passage, what does genuine repentance involve? Which of these elements do you find to be most difficult?

What does submission to God look like? How does one tangibly resist the devil?

How do you draw near to God? What have you found most helpful in this endeavor?

What is the connection between the first paragraph (**v.7-10**) and the second (**v.11-12**)? Explain.

What promises are made to believers in this passage? Which one most encourages you today, and why?

Week 10 Discussion Guide - Nov 9

Read **James 4:13-17** and discuss the following.

Summarize the message of this passage. What are we cautioned to avoid? What are we encouraged to do instead?

Is this passage condemning planning ahead? Why or why not?

According to the passage, what must we know? How ought this knowledge impact the way we plan and spend our days?

Why is it good news to know that the Lord holds the future in His hands?

Consider **v. 17** together. How does this expand our typical understanding of sin? What are some good, right things that you know you have failed to do in the past? What are some opportunities presently before you?

Week 11 Discussion Guide - Nov 16

Read **James 5:1-12** and discuss the following.

Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?

When are you most impatient? How would the practice of patience be evidenced in your daily life?

How does this passage encourage our patient endurance? What perspective is put forward for our consideration? Why is it difficult to think like this?

Our text of study gives some Old Testament examples. What can we learn from these?

Who is warned in this passage? How does this word of caution serve to encourage those following Christ?

Does **v.12** sound familiar? Where else have you seen this addressed? What is the point? Why is personal integrity so extremely vital? How does it fit within the broader context of the letter?

Week 12 Discussion Guide - Nov 23

Read **James 5:13-20** and discuss the following.

How does James conclude his letter? What most stands out to you, and why?

Is prayer typically your first response or a last resort? Does it depend upon the circumstances? How does this passage comfort and/or convict you?

Do you regularly confess your sin to others? Why or why not? How can we become more faithful in obeying this 'one another' command?

How does considering the prayer of Elijah encourage you today?

After reading this passage, do any sufferers, wanderers, or sick come to mind? Pray together for these individuals. Is there a specific reason to give thanks to God? Lift up a praise in prayer and/or song together.

Conclude by sharing some personal, practical takeaways from this series.