

THE **DAILY** CHRIST CENTERED LIFE

Feed Your Faith:

Study James with us!

Join us as we study the book of James through the rest of the summer. You'll find two options for you to choose from - one that helps you process the sermons on your own or with friends, and the second guides you into a deeper study of the entire book of James through weekly activities and prompts. (This second method is adapted from the Navigators Book of the Month study.) Whether you engage with one or both options, join us in memorizing James 1:25.

Option One:

Discuss the sermon using these "forever" questions:

Discuss the following with your LifeGroup, with a buddy or in a journal throughout this series, The Daily, Christ-Centered Life:

1. What do you resonate with from this week's sermon?
Ex: Where you find yourself nodding and saying "This is exactly how I feel".
2. What do you resist about what was said in this week's sermon?
Ex: Where do you find yourself frustrated, disagreeing with or observing that's not how it works in your life? What values, attitudes, beliefs and/or actions are challenged by what you've learned?
How can you reconcile this resistance? What causes it?
What data could you seek out to help you as you rumble with this tension?

For both the resonate and resist questions, we want to be discerning in our agreement with truth. So for both questions 1 + 2, ask these questions:

- Pray for a discerning, humble, teachable spirit.
 - Where else does Scripture support this view/idea as truth?
 - Does Scripture ever oppose this view/idea? Where?
 - What help/resource/person could you seek out to help you rumble with any tensions you find?
3. Based on the sermon this week, Who is God + what has He done?
 4. Based on the sermon this week, Who am I + what should I do?

Option 2

FEED YOUR FAITH USING JAMES + THESE 8 Fs

It's our heartbeat to teach methods of study that are accessible and effective for you to engage with and grow from the study of scripture. Many of these will be familiar as they were used to study Philippians, too. These Fs can help you study James, too! Grab a notebook with your Bible, invite a friend (or two), and feed your faith throughout this series using these weekly activities designed to help you synthesize and integrate the message of James into your everyday life.

Week of July 10:

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE BOOK OF JAMES

Familiarize yourself with the book of James. Read or listen to the entire book (it takes about 16 minutes) as many times as you can this week. Use the summary video from the Bible Project (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn-hLHWwRYY>) to give you a sense of the whole book. Read the book's introduction from a study bible to understand who wrote the letter, to whom, and why. This is also a great place to familiarize yourself with the structure of the letter.

Ponder the following questions as you listen and/or read:

1. What is the tone of the book? Are there any changes in tone that happen throughout the book?
2. What major threads are you beginning to see woven into the fabric of James?

Pray for God's Spirit to open your eyes and speak to you through this study.

Week of July 17:

FORMULATE CHAPTER SUMMARIES

Continue reading through the whole book a few times this week, focusing on each chapter as a part of the whole. Keep asking God to be present with you and guide your thoughts and feelings as you read + study His Word. Write 1-3 sentences to summarize each chapter. Use the following questions to help you get the big picture of each chapter section.

1. What is the primary verse or passage in each chapter?
2. Why did James write each chapter?
3. What are the repeated ideas or phrases throughout the chapter?

Week of July 24:

FACTS

Condense your chapter summaries into short newspaper-like headlines of 5-7 words. Prayerfully consider what these big ideas mean for you in the life situations you will encounter this week.

What actions can you take to apply what you are learning?

Week of July 31:

FOCUS ON A PASSAGE

Choose a passage (try for 1-10 verses) from the book that has intrigued you as you've read so far. Observe the answers to the who, what, where, when, why questions from this text. Make further observations using the questions below as springboards:

1. What are the commands, promises and cause-effect relationships?
2. What are the repeated words or ideas? Why are they repeated?
3. What do you learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit from this passage?
4. What questions do you have about the passage? (Seek out possible answers.)

After making observations, reflect with God on how this passage affects your everyday life. What are some "principles for life" that come from this passage? What can you apply?

Week of August 7

FOCUS ON A THEME

Choose a theme or idea repeated throughout James (patience in trials, genuine faith, prayer, wisdom etc...). Write out each reference to this theme from James in the order they occur.

Make observations on each mention by asking the following questions:

1. What does this occurrence add to the meaning of the idea/theme? (Is it a comparison? an example? a smaller aspect? a general statement about the topic?)
2. How does each mention fit within its immediate context? What does it add to the overall flow of the book?
3. Are there other scriptures that mention your topic that could weigh in?

After making some observations, reflect on how these ideas affect your everyday life. What might need to change or stay the same as a result of your deeper study? What are some "principles for life" that arise out of your study?

Week of August 14:

FIND IT SOMEWHERE ELSE

Much of the wisdom shared in the book of James is shown and supported elsewhere in scripture, by other teachers and often, Jesus himself.

This week, choose 3 commands aimed at developing wisdom in everyday life within James that have impacted you and find some other passages of scripture that flesh out this idea (this is a great time to use your reference bible!). For example, James talks about taming the tongue (James 3:5-12) and Matthew mentions our words as well in his gospel (Matthew 12:33-37).

Ask the following questions about the passages you identify elsewhere:

1. What is the fuller context of this command (who is speaking, to whom, in what situation)?
2. What truths about who God is provides support for your obedience to this command?
3. Does this passage shed any more light on the reason for or results of living by this wisdom?
What is true about God that strengthens your hunger to obey him in these ways?
4. Where do you see opportunities to follow this command in your own life? Pray and ask the Spirit to illuminate them and empower you to obey.

Week of August 21:

FRAME THE BOOK

From memory, map out the book on a blank piece of paper. Try to recall the sections, flows of discussion and key verses as they occur. Share this book map with a friend or family member. Tell them something you've been learning and implementing as a result of your study through James. Pray every day this week that God would solidify any commitments or changes you're making in your life to come more into alignment with His Word.

Week of August 28:

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE BOOK, AGAIN

Read or listen to the entire book of James as many times as you can this week. Is there anything you see in a different or truer light after more focused study? Write out one very specific change you are going to make in your walk with Christ as a result of this study. Thank God for what He has revealed to you and keep asking for his daily help to integrate what you are learning into your days and moments.

Memorize with us:

JAMES 1:25, CSB

But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.