

HEARING THE WORD DOING THE WORD

A Study through James and Jude

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves."*

— James 1:22

WORKBOOK FOR PARTICIPANTS

Course Duration: 8 Weeks

Class Format: Interactive Lecture & Discussion

Class Length: 1-1.5 Hours

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Resources Additional Resources

99 Essential Doctrines Handout • Memory Verses • Prayer Journal Pages • Recommended Resources for Continued Study

WEEK 1

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Faith as Foundation

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching,
rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."*

— 2 Timothy 3:16

FOCUS: Understanding the foundation of biblical
faith and the role of sound doctrine in the believer's
life

WHY DOCTRINE MATTERS

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." - 2 Timothy 3:16

Personal Check-in: How would you describe the role of faith in your daily life?

What is Doctrine?

Doctrine means _____

Biblical truth systematically _____

Foundation for faith and _____

Why Study Doctrine? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Teaching: _____

Rebuking: _____

Correcting: _____

Training in Righteousness: _____

99 ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES FRAMEWORK

"Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

Damascus Road Theme Integration:

This study integrates essential doctrines to help us move from hearing to doing God's Word
- experiencing the same transformation Paul had on the Damascus Road.

FIVE CORE CATEGORIES

The following summaries are adapted from The Gospel Project's 99 Essential Doctrines.

1. SCRIPTURE - Authority, Inspiration, The Mirror (Weeks 1-2)

God's Word shows us truth and guides transformation

2. HOLY SPIRIT - Person, Inner Witness, Discernment (All Weeks)

He illuminates Scripture and empowers obedience

3. SALVATION - Faith & Works, Sanctification, Justification (Weeks 3, 8)

How we are saved and how we grow in Christ

4. CHRISTIAN LIVING - Speech, Wisdom, Prayer (Weeks 4-6)

Practical application of biblical truth in daily life

5. LAST THINGS - Contending, False Teaching, Christ's Return (Week 7)

Standing firm in truth until Jesus returns



Scan Code for
99 Essential Doctrines

Integration Principle

Sound doctrine provides the foundation for practical Christian living. What we believe about God, Scripture, salvation, and the Holy Spirit directly impacts how we hear and do God's Word.

COURSE OVERVIEW

OUR 8-WEEK JOURNEY

Week 1: Introduction & Doctrine Foundation

Week 2: James 1 - How to Hear (Holy Spirit's Role)

Week 3: James 2 - Faith Alive

Week 4: James 3 - Wisdom & Speech

Week 5: James 4 - Worldliness vs. Godliness

Week 6: James 5 - Prosperity, Patience, Prayer

Week 7: Jude - Contending for the Faith

Week 8: Wrap-Up - Hearing & Doing

Central Theme: _____

DAMASCUS ROAD CONNECTION

Paul's transformation on the Damascus Road (Acts 9) shows us the pattern of moving from hearing God's voice to doing God's will - empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Key Elements of Transformation:

1. Divine encounter _____
2. Spiritual illumination _____
3. Personal transformation _____
4. Mission-focused living _____

WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?

Hebrews 11:1 Definition:

Faith is the _____ of things hoped for

The _____ of things not seen

Faith is NOT:

Wishful thinking: _____

Blind belief: _____

Feelings-based: _____

Faith IS:

Evidence-based: _____

Action-oriented: _____

Grounded in doctrine: _____

THREE DIMENSIONS OF FAITH

Justification: How we are saved _____

Sanctification: How we grow _____

Demonstration: How we show it _____

FAITH'S ROLE IN A BELIEVER'S LIFE

1. JUSTIFICATION (Romans 5:1)

We are saved by _____ through _____

Faith receives _____

2. SANCTIFICATION (James 1:2-4)

Faith grows through _____

Trials produce _____

3. DEMONSTRATION (James 2:14-26)

Faith without works is _____

Living faith shows _____

THE WORD IN THREE DIMENSIONS

Written Word: _____

Spoken Word: _____

Revealed Word: _____

The Goal: Hearing AND Doing (James 1:22)

True faith moves from hearing God's Word to doing God's will.

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Third Person of the _____ (Matthew 28:19)

Equal in essence with the Father and _____ (2 Cor 13:14)

Distinct in role as _____ (John 14:26)

| DISCERNING SPIRITS (1 John 4:1)

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." - 1 John 4:1

The Holy Spirit

Leads to truth

(John 16:13)

Glorifies Jesus

(John 16:14)

Produces fruit

(Galatians 5:22-23)

Other Spirits to Test

Spirit of this age

(1 Cor 2:12)

Deceiving spirits

(1 Timothy 4:1)

Our own spirit

(Jeremiah 17:9)

Test Everything (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

Does it align with Scripture? Does it glorify Jesus? Does it produce spiritual fruit?
The Holy Spirit will never contradict God's Word or lead us away from Christ.

THE INNER WITNESS

What is the Inner Witness?

The Holy Spirit's inner witness is His testimony within believers that confirms spiritual truth, assures us of our salvation, and guides us in discernment. It's how God speaks to us through His Spirit.

KEY SCRIPTURE ON THE INNER WITNESS

Romans 8:16: "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

The Spirit witnesses with our spirit that we are _____

1 John 5:6-10: "And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth..."

The Spirit testifies about _____

John 16:13: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth."

He guides us into all _____

THREE VOICES SPEAKING

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God." - 1 John 4:1

The Holy Spirit

Aligns with Scripture

(John 14:26)

Glorifies Jesus

(John 16:14)

Produces peace

(Romans 8:6)

Leads to fruit

(Gal 5:22-23)

Our Own Spirit

Our desires

(Jeremiah 17:9)

Our emotions

(Proverbs 14:12)

Our reasoning

(1 Cor 2:14)

Our feelings

(Prov 28:26)

Deceiving Spirits

Spirit of this age

(1 Cor 2:12)

Deceiving spirits

(1 Timothy 4:1)

Enemy's voice

(John 8:44)

False prophets

(Matthew 7:15)

TESTING THE INNER WITNESS

HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SPIRIT'S VOICE

The Holy Spirit will never contradict God's Word or lead us away from Christ. Here are biblical tests to confirm His witness:

1. THE SCRIPTURE TEST

Does it align with God's Word? _____

"All Scripture is God-breathed... so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. THE CHRIST TEST

Does it glorify Jesus? _____

"He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:14)

3. THE FRUIT TEST

Does it produce spiritual fruit? _____

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness..." (Galatians 5:22-23)

4. THE PEACE TEST

Does it bring God's peace? _____

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15)

5. THE WITNESS TEST

Do mature believers confirm it? _____

"In the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14)

Test Everything (1 Thessalonians 5:21)

The Holy Spirit never contradicts Scripture, never leads away from Christ, and always produces the fruit of righteousness. When we're unsure, we return to God's Word and seek wise counsel.

THE INNER WITNESS IN PRACTICE

Damascus Road Connection

Paul heard Jesus speak on the Damascus Road, but it was the Holy Spirit who opened his spiritual eyes to understand and obey. The same Spirit who illuminated Paul illuminates us today to hear God's voice and do His will.

GROWING IN SENSITIVITY TO THE SPIRIT

1. Cultivate a Life in the Word

The more we know Scripture, the clearer we recognize the Spirit's voice

Daily time in God's Word: _____

2. Practice Discernment

Test impressions against Scripture before acting

Current area needing discernment: _____

3. Obey What You Know

Obedience increases our sensitivity to His leading

One thing the Spirit has shown me to do: _____

4. Seek Godly Counsel

The Spirit speaks through wise, mature believers

My spiritual mentors/accountability: _____

PERSONAL REFLECTION

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's inner witness in your life?

When have you confused another voice for the Spirit's voice? What did you learn?

HOLY SPIRIT THROUGHOUT OUR STUDY

Damascus Road Connection

Paul's transformation on the Damascus Road shows us the pattern: the Holy Spirit opens our eyes, illuminates truth, convicts our hearts, and empowers obedience. This same Spirit guides us through our 8-week journey from hearing to doing.

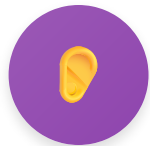
THE SPIRIT'S PROGRESSIVE WORK IN OUR JOURNEY



WEEK 1

Foundation

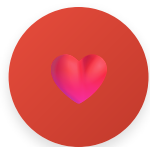
The Spirit reveals truth through Scripture and establishes doctrine as our foundation



WEEK 2

How to Hear

The Spirit teaches us to discern God's voice and illuminates Scripture



WEEK 3

Faith Alive

The Spirit empowers faith to produce works and transforms belief into action



WEEK 4

Wisdom & Speech

The Spirit gives wisdom for our words and controls the tongue

HOLY SPIRIT THROUGHOUT OUR STUDY

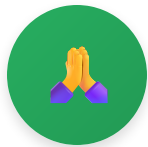
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WEEK 5

Worldliness vs. Godliness

The Spirit convicts against worldliness and draws us to humble submission



WEEK 6

Patience & Prayer

The Spirit intercedes for us and sustains us through trials



WEEK 7

Contending for Faith

The Spirit gives discernment to recognize false teaching and stand firm



WEEK 8

Hearing & Doing

The Spirit enables obedient living and completes our transformation

The Complete Journey

From foundation to obedience, the Holy Spirit guides every step. He opens our eyes (Week 1), teaches us to hear (Week 2), empowers our faith (Week 3), governs our speech (Week 4), convicts our hearts (Week 5), intercedes in prayer (Week 6), protects from deception (Week 7), and enables us to walk in obedience (Week 8).

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Sound Doctrine: How has understanding biblical doctrine changed the way you read Scripture or make decisions?

Further Discussion Prompts:

- Which of the 5 core doctrine categories (Scripture, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Christian Living, Last Things) do you feel most confident in? Which feels weakest?
- Can you share an example of when solid doctrine helped you discern truth from error?
- How does doctrine keep us from being "tossed by every wind" (Ephesians 4:14)?

2. Inner Witness: Share about a time when you had to test whether something was from the Holy Spirit, your own desires, or another influence. What did you learn?

Further Discussion Prompts:

- Which of the five tests (Scripture Test, Christ Test, Fruit Test, Peace Test, Witness Test) do you rely on most naturally? Which do you need to use more?
- Have you ever mistaken your own spirit's voice for the Holy Spirit? What were the consequences?
- How has growing in Scripture knowledge helped you recognize the Spirit's voice more clearly?

GROUP DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)

3. Testing Spirits: Share an example of when you had to test whether something was from the Holy Spirit or another source. What did you learn?

Further Discussion Prompts:

- What role does community (mature believers) play in helping you discern spiritual truth?
- How do you respond when the Spirit's leading contradicts your preferences or comfort?
- What practices help you cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's inner witness?

Group Leader Tip

Allow time for silence after each question. The Holy Spirit often speaks in the quiet moments. Encourage participants to share both victories and struggles—authentic community grows through honest conversation.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." - Psalm 139:23-24

Take time to honestly examine where you are in your spiritual journey. The Holy Spirit uses self-reflection to show us areas where we need to grow from hearing to doing.

1. What do you hope to gain from this 8-week journey?

Consider: What areas of obedience are hardest for you? What does "doing the Word" look like in your daily life?

2. Which areas of doctrine do I need to grow in?

Review the 5 categories from page 6 (Scripture, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Christian Living, Last Things). Which is weakest in your understanding?

PERSONAL REFLECTION (CONTINUED)

3. How is the Holy Spirit currently working in my life?

Consider: Where have you sensed His conviction recently? Where have you seen Him produce fruit in your character?

MY DAMASCUS ROAD JOURNEY

Paul's transformation on the Damascus Road was immediate and total. His life changed from hearing Christ's voice to doing Christ's will.

Where am I in my journey from hearing to doing?

What is one specific way I will practice "doing the Word" this week?

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FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 1, remember that sound doctrine is the foundation for everything else. Faith built on Scripture and empowered by the Holy Spirit moves us from merely hearing God's Word to actively doing it.

Week 1 Key Takeaway:

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

This week I will HEAR God's Word by:

This week I will DO God's Word by:

One area where I need the Holy Spirit's help:

WEEK 1 REMINDERS



TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Foundation Stone: "Faith First" - Build your spiritual life on sound doctrine and the Holy Spirit's witness

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1

Week 1 Complete!

You've laid the foundation - faith built on sound doctrine and the Holy Spirit's witness



Week 1

2

Week 2

3

Week 3

... Week 8

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

NEXT WEEK: James 1 - "How to Hear"

FOCUS:

The Holy Spirit's role in illuminating Scripture so we can truly hear and understand God's voice. Just as Paul needed spiritual sight to understand Jesus on the Damascus Road, we need the Spirit's illumination to hear God's Word rightly.

KEY THEMES:

- The four conditions for hearing (quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, humble reception)
- The Mirror Principle: God's Word reveals who we are
- The difference between hearing and doing
- Three tests of genuine hearing (tongue control, care for others, personal purity)

PREPARATION:

Read James 1:1-27 slowly and prayerfully. Pay special attention to verses 19-25 about being doers of the Word, not just hearers. Ask the Holy Spirit: "What keeps me from truly hearing Your voice? Where am I just a hearer and not a doer?"

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Mirror  - God's Word shows us who we are and who God calls us to become

WEEK 2

JAMES 1

How to Hear

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves."*

— James 1:22

FOCUS: The Holy Spirit's role in understanding and
discerning God's Word

THE HEARING HEART

"Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." - James 1:21

Personal Check-in:

What makes it difficult for you to truly "hear" God speaking through His Word?

The Damascus Road Connection

Like Paul on the Damascus Road who had to have his spiritual blindness healed before he could truly "see," we must learn how to properly hear God's Word. James 1 teaches us the conditions necessary for receiving God's truth through the Holy Spirit's illumination.

CONDITIONS FOR HEARING (James 1:19-21)

1. Quick to Hear (v.19a)

This means being _____

The opposite attitude is _____

2. Slow to Speak (v.19b)

Why is this important for hearing? _____

The Holy Spirit speaks to _____ hearts

3. Slow to Anger (v.19c-20)

Human anger produces _____

God's righteousness requires _____

THE MIRROR PRINCIPLE

4. Humble Reception (v.21)

We must get rid of _____

We must humbly accept _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN HEARING

The Holy Spirit "plants" God's Word in prepared hearts. Just as a farmer prepares soil before planting, we must prepare our hearts through these four conditions before we can truly hear God's voice.

THE MIRROR PRINCIPLE (James 1:22-25)

Three Types of People and the Mirror:

1. The Forgetter (vv.23-24):

This person looks at himself in the mirror and _____

He goes away and immediately _____ what he looked like

2. The Doer (v.25):

This person looks _____ into the perfect law

He _____ in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a _____

3. The Blessed (v.25b):

This one will be blessed in _____

Personal Application:

When you look in God's mirror (His Word), what do you see?

What changes is the Holy Spirit calling you to make?

THREE TESTS OF TRUE HEARING

James gives three practical tests of whether we're truly hearing God's Word through the Spirit's illumination:

THREE TESTS (James 1:26-27)

1. Tongue Control (v.26)

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not _____ his tongue

But deceives his own heart, this one's religion is _____

Application: How we speak reveals whether we're truly hearing _____

2. Care for Others (v.27a)

Pure religion is to visit _____ and _____

In their _____

Application: True hearing produces _____ for the vulnerable

3. Personal Purity (v.27b)

Keep oneself unspotted from the _____

Application: Hearing God's voice leads to _____ from worldliness

ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture, enabling us to understand and apply God's truth. Without His work, we might hear words but miss their meaning and power for transformation.

Personal Reflection:

Which of these three tests reveals most clearly whether you're a hearer only or a doer?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these questions to explore James 1 together. The goal is not just to discuss ideas, but to examine our hearts and encourage one another toward genuine transformation.

1. The Four Conditions: James links being quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, and humble together. Why do you think all four are necessary for truly hearing God's Word?

2. Anger as a Barrier: James says human anger doesn't produce God's righteousness (v.20). Share a time when anger prevented you from hearing truth or receiving correction.

3. The Forgetting Problem: What causes us to forget what we see in God's Word? How can we move from forgetful hearers to faithful doers?

4. Cultural Barriers: In our culture of constant noise and busyness, what are the biggest obstacles to being "quick to hear" God's voice?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Damascus Road Moment: Paul was confronted by Jesus and had to choose between his old understanding and God's truth. When has God's Word convicted you so strongly that you couldn't ignore it?

Where I Need Holy Spirit Transformation

Check the area where you most need the Spirit's help this week:

- ☐ Quick to hear God's voice
- ☐ Slow to speak my own opinions
- ☐ Slow to anger when corrected
- ☐ Humble reception of God's Word

The Three Tests Self-Assessment

Rate yourself honestly (1=Poor, 5=Excellent):

Tongue Control (James 1:26)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Do I bridle my tongue or speak carelessly?

Care for Others (James 1:27a)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Do I actively care for the vulnerable and hurting?

Personal Purity (James 1:27b)

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Do I keep myself unstained by worldly values?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: ILLUMINATION

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." - John 14:26

ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Definition:

Illumination is the Holy Spirit's work of enabling believers to understand and apply the truth of God's Word. He doesn't give new revelation, but helps us comprehend and embrace the revelation already given in Scripture.

Key Passages:

John 16:13 - "He will guide you into all _____ "

1 Corinthians 2:12 - "We have received the Spirit who is from _____ "

1 John 2:20 - "You have an anointing from the _____ "

How Illumination Works:

The Holy Spirit helps us _____ Scripture

He enables us to _____ truth to our lives

He convicts us when we _____ what we hear

He transforms us from hearers into _____

Connection to James 1

When James says to "receive with meekness the implanted word" (1:21), he's describing the Holy Spirit's illuminating work. The Spirit plants truth in our hearts and enables us to receive, understand, and obey it.

Personal Reflection:

Where do you need the Spirit's illumination to truly hear and understand God's Word?

FINAL REFLECTION

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul needed the Holy Spirit to open his spiritual eyes on the Damascus Road. Where do you need the Spirit's illumination to truly hear and understand God's Word?

HEAR This Week

I will prepare my heart to hear by:

DO This Week

I will move to action by:

Week 2 Complete!

You're moving from hearing to doing - keep building on this foundation



Week 1: Foundation | Week 2: How to Hear | Week 3: Faith Alive

WEEK 2 REMINDERS

TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Mirror: "God's Word shows us who we are and who God calls us to become. Let the Holy Spirit use His Word to transform you from the inside out."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." - James 1:22

NEXT WEEK: James 2 - "Faith Alive"

FOCUS:

Understanding the relationship between genuine faith and works. We'll see how the Holy Spirit empowers faith to produce authentic action.

KEY THEMES:

- Faith without favoritism
- The royal law of love
- Faith and works working together
- Examples: Abraham and Rahab

PREPARATION:

Read James 2:1-26. Consider: Where is my faith producing visible works? Where am I showing favoritism?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Puzzle Pieces  - Faith and works fit together perfectly

Accountability Partner

Who will you share your commitment with for accountability?

WEEK 3

JAMES 2

Faith Alive

*"Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show
you my faith by my deeds."*

— James 2:18

FOCUS: Genuine vs. dead faith, favoritism, and
mercy in action

FAITH WITHOUT FAVORITISM

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." - James 2:26

Personal Check-in: How do you show preference to some people over others?

The Damascus Road Connection

Paul's transformation on the Damascus Road immediately produced works - he began preaching Christ. James 2 teaches us that genuine faith always produces genuine works. This isn't salvation by works, but salvation that works.

| THE PROBLEM: JUDGING BY APPEARANCE (vv.1-4)

James describes favoritism toward _____

While discriminating against _____

This makes us judges with _____ thoughts

| GOD'S PERSPECTIVE (vv.5-7)

God has chosen the _____ to be rich in _____

The rich often _____ believers and _____ God's name

| THE ROYAL LAW (vv.8-13)

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is called _____

Breaking this law makes us _____

We will be judged by the law of _____

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

The Holy Spirit convicts us when we show favoritism because it contradicts the nature of God, who shows no partiality (Acts 10:34).

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

This passage is often misunderstood. James is not teaching salvation by works, but rather that genuine salvation always produces works.

| THE QUESTION (v.14)

Can faith _____ someone if it has no _____?

James' answer: _____

| THE ILLUSTRATION (vv.15-17)

If a brother or sister is _____ and _____, and you say "be warmed and filled" but don't give them what they need, what good is it?

Faith by itself, without works, is _____

| THE OBJECTION ANSWERED (vv.18-20)

Some might say: "You have faith and I have works." James responds: Show me your _____ without _____, and I will show you my _____ by my _____.

Even demons _____ - and _____!

| TWO EXAMPLES OF LIVING FAITH

1. Abraham (vv.21-24)

Abraham was justified by _____ when he offered Isaac

His faith _____ with his works

His works made his faith _____

He was called _____ of God

2. Rahab (v.25)

Rahab was justified by works when she _____ the messengers

She sent them away by _____ way

UNDERSTANDING JUSTIFICATION

Paul teaches justification by faith alone (Romans). James teaches that justifying faith is never alone - it always produces works. Both are teaching the same truth from different angles.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these questions to explore James 2 together. Focus on how genuine faith naturally produces works of love and mercy.

1. Favoritism Today: What are some subtle ways we might show favoritism in our church or community?

2. Royal Law: How does showing favoritism damage our witness for Christ and break the "royal law" of love?

3. Faith & Works: How do we balance Paul's teaching on justification by faith alone with James' emphasis on faith with works?

4. Dead Faith: What does "dead faith" look like in practice? How can we tell if our faith is alive or dead?

5. Damascus Road Application: How does Paul's immediate transformation from persecutor to preacher illustrate James' teaching about faith and works?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Dead Faith Diagnostic

Look at your past week honestly. Check what applies:

SIGNS MY FAITH IS ALIVE:

- ☐ I helped someone without being asked
- ☐ I gave generously when I saw a need
- ☐ I treated someone well regardless of their status
- ☐ I stood up for what's right despite potential cost

SIGNS MY FAITH MIGHT BE DEAD:

- ☐ I talked about helping but didn't act
- ☐ I made excuses when opportunities to serve arose
- ☐ I showed clear favoritism based on appearance/status
- ☐ I avoided inconvenient acts of love

Be specific - What is one example from this week?

Where I saw living faith:

Where I saw dead faith:

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul's faith immediately produced works. What specific works is God calling your faith to produce this week?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: JUSTIFICATION

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:1

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Definition:

Justification is God's legal declaration that a sinner is righteous before Him based on Christ's perfect righteousness credited to our account through faith alone.

Key Passages:

Romans 3:28 - "We maintain that a person is justified by _____"

Romans 4:5 - "To the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their _____ is credited as righteousness"

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "By grace you have been saved through _____, and this is not your own doing"

How Paul and James Agree:

Paul teaches: We are justified by _____ apart from works

James teaches: Justifying faith is never _____ - it produces works

Both agree: _____ saves us, _____ shows our salvation

The works James mentions are _____ of salvation, not the _____ of salvation

Connection to James 2

James uses "justified" to mean "shown to be righteous" or "vindicated," while Paul uses it to mean "declared righteous." Both meanings are biblical and complementary, not contradictory.

Personal Reflection:

How does understanding justification by faith alone give you confidence before God?

What works is your justified faith producing in your life?

FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 3, remember that genuine faith always produces works of love and mercy. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live out our faith in tangible ways that show God's love to others, especially those society might overlook or dismiss.

FAITH This Week

I will strengthen my faith by:

WORKS This Week

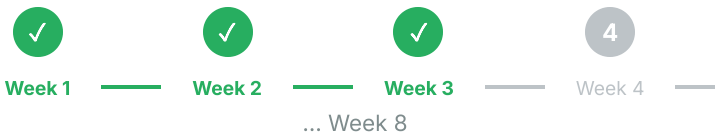
I will show my faith by:

Week 3 Key Takeaway

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

Week 3 Complete!

Your faith is becoming more active - keep building on this foundation



WEEK 3 REMINDERS

TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Puzzle Pieces: "Faith and works fit together like puzzle pieces - you can't have one without the other in genuine Christianity. Let the Holy Spirit produce both in your life."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." - James 2:26

NEXT WEEK: James 3 - "Wisdom & Speech"

FOCUS:

The power of words and heavenly vs. earthly wisdom

KEY THEMES:

- Taming the tongue
- Small things with big effects
- Two kinds of wisdom
- Heavenly wisdom characteristics

PREPARATION:

Read James 3:1-18. Consider: How do my words reflect the kind of wisdom I have? What does my speech reveal about my heart?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Compass  - Heavenly wisdom guides our words and decisions

MY ROYAL LAW CHALLENGE

Who is one person I typically show favoritism toward (either positively or negatively)?

How will I show Christ's love to someone I usually overlook this week?

WEEK 4

JAMES 3

Wisdom & Speech

"With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness."

— James 3:9

FOCUS: The power of words and heavenly vs. earthly wisdom

TAMING THE TONGUE

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." - James 3:17

Personal Check-in: What words have you regretted speaking this week?

The Damascus Road Connection

On the Damascus Road, Paul's first words after his encounter with Christ were questions seeking wisdom: "Who are You, Lord?" and "What shall I do?" (Acts 22:8,10). James 3 teaches us about two kinds of wisdom and how they are revealed through our speech.

| WARNING TO TEACHERS (vv.1-2)

Teachers receive _____ judgment

We all _____ in many things

Perfect control of the tongue shows a _____ man

| SMALL THINGS, BIG EFFECTS (vv.3-6)

James gives three illustrations:

Horse's Bit (v.3): Small bit _____ the whole body

Ship's Rudder (v.4): Small rudder _____ huge ships

Forest Fire (vv.5-6): Small spark _____ great forests

The tongue is a _____ among our members

It _____ the whole body

It is set on fire by _____

HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

While no human can tame the tongue, the Holy Spirit can! He gives us power to control our speech and speak words that build up rather than tear down.

TWO KINDS OF WISDOM

| UNTAMABLE BEAST (vv.7-8)

Every kind of _____ has been tamed by mankind

But no man can _____ the tongue

It is an unruly _____, full of deadly _____

| INCONSISTENT SPEECH (vv.9-12)

With the tongue we bless _____ our Father

And curse _____ made in God's image

Out of the same mouth comes _____ and _____

These things ought _____ to be so

| EARTHLY VS. HEAVENLY WISDOM (vv.13-18)

Earthly Wisdom (vv.14-16):

Characterized by bitter _____ and self-seeking

This wisdom is _____, sensual, demonic

It produces _____ and every evil thing

Heavenly Wisdom (vv.17-18):

First _____

Then _____

Willing to _____

Full of _____ and good fruits

Without _____ and without _____

The fruit of righteousness is sown in _____ by those who make

DAMASCUS ROAD TRANSFORMATION

Paul's speech completely changed after Damascus - from words of persecution and hatred to words of grace and truth. His wisdom shifted from earthly (self-seeking) to heavenly (Christ-seeking).

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these questions to explore James 3 together. Focus on how the Holy Spirit transforms both our speech and our wisdom.

1. Speech Inconsistency: Why does James say it's inconsistent to bless God and curse people with the same mouth? What does this reveal about our hearts?

2. Small but Powerful: How do James' illustrations (bit, rudder, spark) help us understand the power of our words? Share an example of when small words had big impact.

3. Earthly vs. Heavenly Wisdom: What are some examples of earthly wisdom we see in our culture? How does heavenly wisdom look different in practical situations?

4. Holy Spirit's Help: Since no human can tame the tongue (v.8), how does the Holy Spirit help us control our speech? What's our role and what's His role?

5. Damascus Road Application: How did Paul's speech change after his encounter with Christ? What can we learn from his transformation from bitter persecutor to gentle teacher?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Speech Pattern Reflection

Think about your speech this past week. Be honest about patterns you see:

HEAVENLY WISDOM IN MY SPEECH:

When did I speak with wisdom, gentleness, and mercy?

EARTHLY WISDOM IN MY SPEECH:

When did I speak with bitterness, selfishness, or harshness?

What triggers my worst speech patterns?

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul's speech completely transformed after Damascus. What specific changes do you need the Holy Spirit to make in your speech patterns?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: SANCTIFICATION

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

SANCTIFICATION BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Definition:

Sanctification is the Holy Spirit's ongoing work of making believers more like Christ in character, speech, and conduct. It's the process of becoming holy.

Key Passages:

2 Corinthians 3:18 - "We are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing _____"

Galatians 5:22-23 - "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, _____ and self-control"

Philippians 2:13 - "God works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good _____"

How Sanctification Works in Speech:

The Holy Spirit convicts us when our words are _____

He gives us _____ wisdom to speak appropriately

He produces the fruit of _____ in our speech

He helps us speak words that _____ others up

Connection to James 3

James 3 shows us that the Holy Spirit must sanctify our speech. We cannot tame our tongue by willpower alone - we need the Spirit's ongoing transformation to speak with heavenly wisdom.

Personal Reflection:

In what areas of your speech do you most need the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work?

How can you cooperate with the Spirit's work to transform your speech patterns?

FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 4, remember that the Holy Spirit wants to transform not just what we say, but how we think. Heavenly wisdom produces heavenly speech that builds up, encourages, and points others toward Christ.

WISDOM This Week

I will seek heavenly wisdom by:

SPEECH This Week

I will guard my speech by:

Week 4 Key Takeaway

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

Week 4 Complete!

Your words are becoming wiser - keep growing in heavenly wisdom



WEEK 4 REMINDERS



TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Compass: "Just as a compass points to true north, heavenly wisdom points us toward God. Let the Holy Spirit guide your words and decisions with His wisdom from above."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy." - James 3:17

NEXT WEEK: James 4 - "Worldliness vs. Godliness"

FOCUS:

Choosing God's direction and resisting worldly influences

KEY THEMES:

- Source of spiritual conflicts
- Submit to God, resist the devil
- Eight steps to spiritual victory
 - Humility and God's grace

PREPARATION:

Read James 4:1-17. Consider: What worldly desires are creating conflict in my relationships? How can I better submit to God?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Shield  - Holy Spirit protection in spiritual warfare

MY COMPASS DIRECTION

What is one area where I need heavenly wisdom to guide my decisions this week?

How will I seek the Holy Spirit's wisdom before I speak or act in this area?

WEEK 5

JAMES 4

Worldliness vs. Godliness

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

— James 4:7

FOCUS: Choosing God's direction and resisting worldly influences

SOURCE OF CONFLICTS

"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." - James 4:7-8a

Personal Check-in: What worldly desires are you currently struggling with?

The Damascus Road Connection

Paul's Damascus Road encounter was a complete shift from worldly values to godly priorities. James 4 calls us to the same radical transformation, showing us how the Holy Spirit empowers us to resist worldliness and pursue godliness.

| INTERNAL WARS (vv.1-3)

Wars and fights come from _____ that war in your members

You lust and do not _____

You murder and _____ and cannot obtain

You do not have because you do not _____

You ask and do not receive because you ask _____

| SPIRITUAL ADULTERY (vv.4-6)

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with _____ is enmity with _____?

Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an _____ of God

The Spirit who dwells in us yearns _____

But He gives more _____

God resists the _____ but gives grace to the _____

HOLY SPIRIT'S JEALOUSY

The Holy Spirit within us "yearns jealously" - not in a sinful way, but with holy jealousy for our complete devotion to God. He wants all of our heart, not just part of it.

EIGHT STEPS TO SPIRITUAL VICTORY

James gives us eight specific steps to spiritual victory over worldliness:

| THE VICTORY PATTERN (vv.7-10)

1. Submit to God (v.7a)

Surrender your will to _____

2. Resist the Devil (v.7b)

Stand firm against _____ influence

3. Draw Near to God (v.8a)

Actively pursue _____ with God

4. Cleanse Your Hands (v.8b)

Stop sinful _____

5. Purify Your Hearts (v.8c)

Deal with double-minded _____

6. Lament and Mourn (v.9a)

Feel genuine _____ for sin

7. Turn Laughter to Mourning (v.9b)

Stop treating sin _____

8. Humble Yourself (v.10)

The result: He will _____ you up

| JUDGING OTHERS (vv.11-12)

Do not speak _____ of one another

He who speaks evil judges the _____

There is one _____ who is able to save and destroy

BOASTING ABOUT TOMORROW

| PLANNING WITHOUT GOD (vv.13-16)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a _____"

You do not know what will happen _____

Your life is a _____ that appears for a little time and then _____

The Solution (vv.15-16):

Instead you ought to say, "If the _____ wills, we shall live and do this or that"

But now you _____ in your arrogance

All such boasting is _____

| THE PRINCIPLE (v.17)

To him who knows to do _____ and does not do it, to him it is _____

DAMASCUS ROAD TRANSFORMATION

Paul's transformation shows the complete victory pattern James describes: He submitted to God ("What shall I do, Lord?"), resisted evil (stopped persecuting Christians), drew near to God (prayer and fasting), cleansed his actions, purified his heart, and humbled himself from proud Pharisee to humble servant.

| WORLDLINESS VS. GODLINESS

Worldliness Characteristics:

- Friendship with the world's _____
- Self-seeking _____ and ambition
- Planning without considering _____ will
- Pride and _____ about the future

Godliness Characteristics:

- Submission to _____ authority
- Dependence on God's _____ and will
- Humility about our _____ and future
- Resistance to _____ influence

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use these questions to explore James 4 together. Focus on how the Holy Spirit empowers us to choose godliness over worldliness.

1. Worldly Friendship: What are some ways Christians can be "friends with the world" today? How do we recognize when we're crossing that line?

2. Internal Wars: James says our conflicts come from desires that "war" within us. Share an example of when worldly desires created conflict in your relationships.

3. Eight Steps: Which of the eight steps to spiritual victory (submit, resist, draw near, cleanse, purify, mourn, humble) do you find most challenging? Why?

4. Planning vs. Trusting: How do we balance making plans and goals with trusting God's will? What does "If the Lord wills" look like practically?

5. Damascus Road Application: Paul made a complete shift from worldly values to godly priorities. What worldly values do you need the Holy Spirit to help you abandon?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Worldliness Assessment

Honestly evaluate areas where you might be "friends with the world":

MATERIAL DESIRES

Am I driven more by wanting things or by God's will?

SOCIAL STATUS

Do I seek approval from the world more than from God?

FUTURE PLANNING

Do I make plans without considering God's will?

PRIDE & CONTROL

Where do I struggle to humble myself and submit to God?

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul completely abandoned his worldly status and ambitions after Damascus. What worldly pursuit do you need to surrender to follow Christ more fully?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." - Ephesians 6:12

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Definition:

Spiritual warfare is the ongoing conflict between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness, fought in the spiritual realm but affecting the physical world through our choices and actions.

Key Passages:

1 Peter 5:8 - "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring _____"

2 Corinthians 10:4 - "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the _____"

Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's _____"

How James 4 Fits:

The "world" represents _____ influence and values

Our desires become battlegrounds where we choose _____ or _____

Submitting to God and resisting the devil are acts of _____ warfare

The Holy Spirit empowers us for _____ in this battle

Connection to James 4

James 4 gives us practical steps for spiritual warfare: submit to God's authority, resist enemy influence, draw near to God for strength, and humble ourselves under His protection.

Personal Reflection:

What spiritual battles are you currently facing in your desires and choices?

How can you better use the "weapons" God provides for spiritual victory?

FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 5, remember that the Holy Spirit is our shield in spiritual warfare. When we submit to God and resist the devil, He gives us victory over worldliness and draws us into genuine godliness.

SUBMIT This Week

I will submit to God by:

RESIST This Week

I will resist worldliness by:

Week 5 Key Takeaway

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

Week 5 Complete!

You're learning to choose godliness - keep fighting the good fight



WEEK 5 REMINDERS

TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Shield: "The Holy Spirit is our shield in spiritual warfare. When we submit to God and resist the devil, He gives us victory over worldliness and draws us into godliness."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." - James 4:7-8a

NEXT WEEK: James 5 - "Prosperity, Patience, Prayer"

FOCUS:

Biblical perspectives on wealth, endurance, and the power of prayer

KEY THEMES:

- Warning to the rich
- Patient endurance in trials
- The effective power of prayer
- Restoring wandering believers

PREPARATION:

Read James 5:1-20. Consider: How do I view wealth and material possessions? What trials require patient endurance? How effective is my prayer life?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Praying Hands 🙏 - Effective, fervent prayer through the Spirit

MY SHIELD STRATEGY

What specific worldly temptation do I need the Holy Spirit's protection from this week?

How will I practically "submit to God and resist the devil" in this area?

WEEK 6

JAMES 5

Prosperity, Patience, Prayer

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

— James 5:16

FOCUS: Biblical perspectives on wealth, endurance, and the power of prayer

WARNING TO THE RICH

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." - James 5:16b

Personal Check-in: How do you view wealth and material possessions?

The Damascus Road Connection

Paul's Damascus Road experience led to a life of patient endurance through trials and powerful prayer. James 5 teaches us how the Holy Spirit guides us in proper attitudes toward wealth, patient endurance in suffering, and effective prayer.

JUDGMENT COMING (vv.1-3)

Come now, you rich, _____ and howl for your _____

Your riches are _____

Your garments are _____

Your gold and silver are _____

Their corrosion will be a _____ against you

SPECIFIC SINS (vv.4-6)

The wages you kept back from the laborers _____ out

The cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the _____

You have lived on the earth in _____ and _____

You have _____ your hearts as in a day of slaughter

You have condemned and _____ the just

HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

The Holy Spirit convicts us when we trust in riches instead of God, or when we use wealth to oppress others rather than bless them.

PATIENT ENDURANCE

| LIKE A FARMER (vv.7-8)

Be _____ until the coming of the Lord

The farmer waits for the _____ fruit of the earth

He has long patience, waiting for the _____ and _____ rain

You also be patient and _____ your hearts

| DON'T COMPLAIN (v.9)

Do not _____ against one another

The Judge is standing at the _____

| EXAMPLES OF PATIENCE (vv.10-11)

Take the _____ as an example of suffering and patience

We count them blessed who _____

You have heard of the _____ of Job

You have seen the end intended by the Lord - He is _____ and

| DON'T SWEAR OATHS (v.12)

Do not swear by _____ or by _____ or by any other oath

Let your "Yes" be _____ and your "No," _____

DAMASCUS ROAD PATIENCE

Paul learned patience through countless trials after Damascus - shipwrecks, imprisonments, beatings. The Holy Spirit sustained him through patient endurance, just as He sustains us.

Why Patience Matters:

Christ's return gives us _____ in trials

The Holy Spirit produces patience as _____ of the Spirit

Patience prevents us from _____ against others

THE POWER OF PRAYER

DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, ONE SOLUTION (vv.13-15)

Is anyone among you _____? Let him _____

Is anyone _____? Let him _____ psalms

Is anyone _____? Let him call for the elders

Let them pray over him, anointing him with _____

The prayer of _____ will save the sick

If he has committed sins, they will be _____

CONFESSION AND PRAYER (v.16)

Confess your _____ to one another

Pray for _____

The effective, _____ prayer of a righteous man avails much

ELIJAH'S EXAMPLE (vv.17-18)

Elijah was a man with a nature like _____

He prayed earnestly that it would not _____

It did not rain for _____ years and _____ months

He prayed again, and heaven gave _____

RESTORATION MINISTRY (vv.19-20)

If anyone wanders from the _____

And someone turns him _____

He will save a _____ from death

And cover a multitude of _____

HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN PRAYER

The Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know what to pray for (Romans 8:26) and makes our prayers "effective and fervent." He intercedes for us and through us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Today we'll share stories from our own spiritual journeys. Like Paul's Damascus Road transformation, God continues to change our perspectives on wealth, patience, and prayer throughout our lives.

ROUND 1: MONEY PERSPECTIVE SHIFT (Everyone shares briefly)

Share one small way your perspective on money or possessions has changed since becoming a Christian. This could be about generosity, contentment, priorities, or stewardship.

ROUND 2: PATIENCE THROUGH TRIALS (Optional deeper sharing)

Paul went from persecutor to patient sufferer for Christ. Describe a season when God grew your patience through difficult circumstances. What did you learn about His character during that time?

ROUND 3: PRAYER STORY EXCHANGE (Build together)

Think of a prayer God answered differently than you expected. What did that experience teach you about His character or His ways? (If comfortable, share the story; if not, share just the lesson learned.)

ROUND 4: FORWARD APPLICATION (Group commitment)

Based on what you've shared and heard today, what's one area where God is calling you to grow next: prosperity perspective, patient endurance, or prayer life? How can this group pray for you?

LISTENING REFLECTION

What common themes do you hear across our stories? How has God been faithful in different ways to each of us?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Prayer Life Assessment

Evaluate your prayer life honestly in these key areas:

SUFFERING SITUATIONS

When I face trials, do I turn to prayer first or as a last resort?

CHEERFUL SITUATIONS

When things go well, do I remember to praise God?

CONFESSION IN PRAYER

Do I regularly confess sin and pray for healing (spiritual/physical)?

FERVENT & EFFECTIVE

Would I describe my prayers as "effective and fervent" like Elijah's?

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul's prayers became powerful after Damascus because the Holy Spirit interceded through him. What specific area of your prayer life needs the Spirit's transformation?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: INTERCESSION

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans." - Romans 8:26

INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Definition:

Intercession is the Holy Spirit's work of praying for us and through us when we don't know how to pray, making our prayers effective and aligned with God's will.

Key Passages:

Romans 8:27 - "He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the _____"

Hebrews 7:25 - "Christ always lives to _____ for them"

1 John 2:1 - "We have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the _____ One"

How Intercession Works:

The Holy Spirit _____ when we don't know what to pray

He aligns our prayers with _____ will

He makes our prayers _____ and _____

He gives us _____ to pray consistently

Connection to James 5

When James says "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much," he's describing prayer empowered by the Holy Spirit's intercession. Our prayers become effective when the Spirit prays through us.

Personal Reflection:

How does knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for you change your approach to prayer?

What specific prayer requests will you trust to the Spirit's intercession this week?

FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 6, remember that the Holy Spirit empowers our prayers and helps us endure trials with patience. Trust Him to work through your prayers in mighty ways, knowing He intercedes for you according to God's perfect will.

PATIENCE This Week

I will develop patience by:

PRAYER This Week

I will strengthen my prayer life by:

Week 6 Key Takeaway

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

Week 6 Complete!

Your prayers are becoming more powerful - keep growing in faith



WEEK 6 REMINDERS



TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Praying Hands: "The Holy Spirit empowers our prayers and helps us endure trials with patience. Trust Him to work through your prayers in mighty ways."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." - James 5:16b

NEXT WEEK: Jude - "Contending for the Faith"

FOCUS:

Standing firm against false teaching and building up faith

KEY THEMES:

- The urgent call to contend for faith
- Characteristics of false teachers
- Building yourself up in the faith
- Showing mercy to those deceived

PREPARATION:

Read Jude 1-25. Consider: How do I recognize false teaching? What does it mean to "contend for the faith"? How can I build myself up spiritually?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Fortress 🏰 - Strong defense of biblical truth with mercy

MY PRAYER COMMITMENT

What specific situation do I need to pray about with "effective, fervent" prayer this week?

How will I rely on the Holy Spirit's intercession in my prayers?

WEEK 7

JUDE

Contending for the Faith

*"Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted
to God's holy people."*

— Jude 1:3

FOCUS: Standing firm against false teaching and
building up faith

THE CALL TO CONTEND

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." - Jude 3

Personal Check-in: How do you recognize false teaching when you encounter it?

The Damascus Road Connection

Paul's Damascus Road transformation made him a fierce defender of the faith he once tried to destroy. Jude's letter calls us to the same passionate defense of biblical truth, empowered by the Holy Spirit's discernment and strength.

| JUDE'S IDENTITY (v.1)

Jude, a _____ of Jesus Christ

And brother of _____

To those who are _____, _____ by God the Father

And _____ in Jesus Christ

| THE URGENT NEED (vv.3-4)

I was very diligent to write about our _____ salvation

But found it necessary to write exhorting you to _____ earnestly

For the faith which was _____ delivered to the saints

Certain men have crept in _____

Who turn the grace of God into _____

And deny the only Lord God and our Lord _____

| EXAMPLES OF JUDGMENT (vv.5-7)

Jude reminds us of three historical judgments:

1. Israel in the wilderness (v.5): God destroyed those who did not _____

2. Fallen angels (v.6): Angels who left their proper _____

3. Sodom and Gomorrah (v.7): Suffered the vengeance of _____ fire

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

HOLY SPIRIT'S DISCERNMENT

The Holy Spirit helps us discern false teaching by comparing it to the unchanging truth of God's Word. He alerts us to doctrine that contradicts Scripture.

THEIR SINS (vv.8-10)

These dreamers _____ the flesh
Reject _____
Speak evil of _____
They speak evil of what they do not _____
What they know naturally corrupts _____

THREE EXAMPLES (v.11)

Woe to them! They have gone in the way of _____
Run greedily in the error of _____
Perished in the rebellion of _____

VIVID DESCRIPTIONS (vv.12-13)

Spots in your love feasts, feeding
_____ without fear

Clouds without _____

Trees whose fruit _____, without
fruit, twice dead

Raging _____ of the sea

Wandering _____

Reserved for blackest _____

ENOCH'S PROPHECY (vv.14-16)

Enoch prophesied: "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His _____"
To execute _____ on all
These are _____, sensual, not having the Spirit

WARNING SIGNS OF FALSE TEACHING:

- Turns grace into license for sin
- Denies Christ's lordship
- Promotes division
- Lacks the Spirit's fruit
- Appeals to natural desires

BUILDING YOURSELF UP

REMEMBER THE WARNING (vv.17-19)

Remember the words spoken by the _____
In the last time there will be _____
Who walk according to their own _____ lusts
These are _____, sensual, not having the Spirit

FOUR ACTION STEPS (vv.20-21)

1. BUILDING (v.20a)

Build yourselves up on your most holy _____

2. PRAYING (v.20b)

Pray in the _____

3. KEEPING (v.21a)

Keep yourselves in the _____ of God

4. LOOKING (v.21b)

Look for the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ

MINISTRY TO OTHERS (vv.22-23)

On some have _____, making a distinction
Others save with _____, pulling them out of the fire
On others have mercy with _____

PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

When we "pray in the Holy Spirit," we allow Him to guide our prayers according to God's will, giving us strength to contend for the faith.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY (vv.24-25)

Now to Him who is able to _____ you from stumbling
And to present you _____ before the presence of His glory
With exceeding _____
To God our Savior, who alone is _____

GROUP EXERCISE: FORTRESS BUILDERS



BUILDING A FORTRESS OF FAITH

Like building a fortress requires different materials and skills, contending for the faith requires multiple strategies. Work together to strengthen each other's spiritual defenses.

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE THREAT - Each person shares one false teaching or worldly philosophy they encounter regularly (social media, workplace, culture, etc.)

STEP 2: FIND THE TRUTH - As a group, identify what biblical truth counters each false teaching mentioned. What does Scripture actually teach?

STEP 3: BUILD EACH OTHER UP - Using Jude's four action steps (build, pray, keep, look), how can you specifically help strengthen one another this week?

STEP 4: SHOW MERCY - Discuss: How do we contend for truth while showing mercy to those deceived by false teaching? Share examples of loving confrontation.

FORTRESS COMMITMENT

Based on today's discussion, what's one way you'll strengthen your spiritual fortress this week?

MERCY MISSION

Who is one person you can show mercy to while still standing for truth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

False Teaching Vulnerability Assessment

Honestly evaluate where you might be most vulnerable to deception:

AREA OF VULNERABILITY

- ☐ Social media influences that contradict Scripture
- ☐ Cultural pressure to compromise biblical values
- ☐ Teachings that make sin seem acceptable
- ☐ Philosophy that elevates human wisdom over God's
- ☐ Prosperity teaching that makes faith about getting
- ☐ Relativism that says all paths lead to God

What specific false teaching do I need to guard against most?

What biblical truth will I use as my defense?

Damascus Road Reflection

Paul became a fierce defender of the faith he once attacked. What truth has God called you to defend more boldly?

DOCTRINE FOCUS: APOSTASY

"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies." - 2 Peter 2:1

APOSTASY

Definition:

Apostasy is the abandonment or renunciation of a religious belief, particularly the deliberate departure from previously held Christian truth.

Key Passages:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - "The time will come when people will not endure sound _____"

1 Timothy 4:1 - "In later times some will depart from the _____"

2 Thessalonians 2:3 - "Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the _____ comes first"

How Jude Fits:

Jude warns about those who have "crept in _____"

They turn God's grace into _____

They are "sensual, not having the _____"

Believers must _____ for the faith against such deception

Connection to Jude

Jude's entire letter is a warning against apostasy and a call to contend for authentic biblical faith against those who would corrupt it from within.

Personal Reflection:

How can you tell the difference between genuine spiritual growth and apostasy?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in protecting you from deception?

FINAL REFLECTION

As we close Week 7, remember that the Holy Spirit makes us strong fortresses of truth, able to contend for the faith while showing mercy to those caught in deception. We defend truth not from pride, but from love.

CONTEND This Week

I will stand for truth by:

SHOW MERCY This Week

I will show mercy by:

Week 7 Key Takeaway

What is the one truth from this week I don't want to forget?

Week 7 Complete!

You're becoming a strong fortress for truth - almost there!



W1



W2



W3



W4



W5



W6



W7



8

W8

WEEK 7 REMINDERS



TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Fortress: "The Holy Spirit makes us strong fortresses of truth, able to contend for the faith while showing mercy to those caught in deception."

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God." - Jude 20-21a

NEXT WEEK: Wrap-Up - "Hearing & Doing"

FOCUS:

Living out what we've learned and ongoing spiritual commitments

KEY THEMES:

- Damascus Road pattern recap
- Personal spiritual assessment
- Commitment to continued growth
- Final takeaways and applications

PREPARATION:

Review James 1:22 and reflect on your journey through all previous weeks. Consider: How has God changed you? What commitments will you make going forward?

TAKE-HOME TOKEN:

Transformed Life 🔄 - The ultimate goal of hearing and doing

MY FORTRESS DEFENSE PLAN

What specific false teaching or worldly philosophy do I need to guard against most?

How will I build myself up in truth while showing mercy to those deceived?

WEEK 8

WRAP-UP

Hearing & Doing

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

— James 1:22

FOCUS: Living out what we've learned and ongoing spiritual commitments

THE DAMASCUS ROAD PATTERN

"As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice..." - Acts 9:3-4a

Personal Check-in: What is your biggest takeaway from this 8-week study?

Opening Reflection

We return to the Damascus Road where our journey began. Paul's transformation from hearing God's voice to doing God's will provides the perfect summary of our study through James and Jude.

THE DAMASCUS ROAD PATTERN

1. DIVINE ENCOUNTER (Acts 9:3)

Paul met the _____ Jesus Christ

We encounter Christ through _____ and the _____

2. SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION (Acts 9:8-9, 17-18)

Paul's physical blindness represented _____ blindness

The Holy Spirit _____ our understanding (Acts 9:17)

3. PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION (Acts 9:20)

Paul immediately began _____ Christ

True hearing always produces _____ (James 1:22)

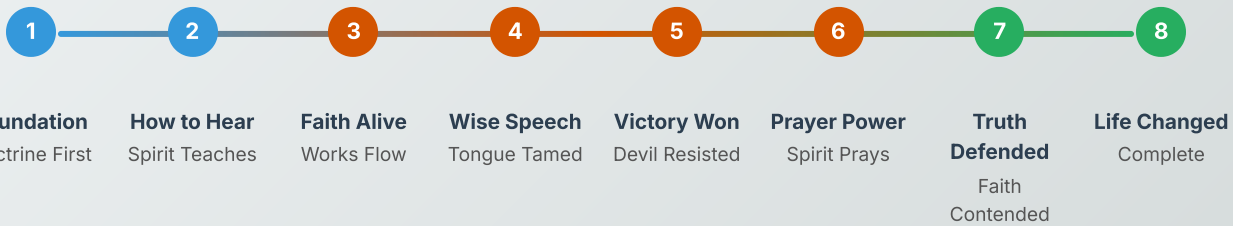
4. MISSION-FOCUSED LIVING (Acts 9:15)

Paul became God's chosen _____

We live as _____ of the Word, not just hearers

OUR 8-WEEK JOURNEY SUMMARY

DAMASCUS ROAD TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE



HOW TO HEAR

(Weeks 1-2)

Quick to hear, slow to speak,
slow to anger
Humbly receive the implanted
word
Look intently into perfect law
Be doers, not just hearers



HOW TO DO

(Weeks 3-6)

Show living faith through
works
Control tongue with wisdom
Submit to God, resist devil
Pray with patience



HOW TO CONTEND

(Weeks 7-8)

Build yourself up in faith
Pray in the Holy Spirit
Keep yourself in God's love
Show mercy to those in error

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMPLETE WORK

From conviction to sanctification to glorification - the Holy Spirit completes the work He begins in every believer who truly hears and does God's Word.

Which week on your Damascus Road timeline marked the biggest breakthrough?

How do you see the progression from hearing → doing → contending in your own spiritual growth?

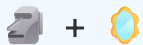
TOKENS OF TRANSFORMATION

YOUR 8-WEEK TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

 WEEK 1 Foundation Stone Faith First	 WEEK 2 Mirror Word Reflecting Truth	 WEEK 3 Puzzle Pieces Faith + Works	 WEEK 4 Compass Heavenly Wisdom
 WEEK 5 Shield Spiritual Warfare	 WEEK 6 Praying Hands Effective Prayer	 WEEK 7 Fortress Contending Truth	 WEEK 8 Transformed Life Complete Journey



HEARING FOUNDATION

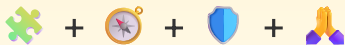


Foundation + Mirror

Built on sound doctrine
Reflected in God's Word
Ready to receive truth



DOING EQUIPPED

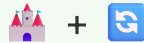


Faith + Wisdom + War + Prayer

Faith produces works
Wisdom guides speech
Victory through Spirit



CONTENDING COMPLETE



Fortress + Transformation

Defending biblical truth
Showing mercy to others
Living transformed life

PERSONAL TOKEN REFLECTION

Which take-home token from the 8 weeks means the most to you right now?

How do you see all these tokens working together in your spiritual life?

ENHANCED PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

Growth Tracking Instructions

Rate yourself honestly in each area. This isn't about perfection - it's about recognizing God's work in your life over these 8 weeks.



HEARING THE WORD

Quick to hear God's voice

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?

Slow to speak my opinions

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?



DOING THE WORD

Faith producing works

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?

Tongue controlled by wisdom

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?



CONTENDING FOR FAITH

Building myself up in truth

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?

Showing mercy to others

Week 1: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

Week 8: ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4
☐5

What's one example from this week?

NEXT STEPS & DAMASCUS ROAD REFLECTION



NEXT STEPS FOCUS

Choose your growth area:

- ☐ Hearing
- ☐ Doing
- ☐ Contending

One specific action this week:

Accountability partner (who will pray with you):

Your Spiritual Journey

When did you first truly "hear" the gospel?

Your Transformation

How has your life changed from hearing to doing?

What "spiritual blindness" has the Holy Spirit healed?

What is God calling you to "do" as a result of this study?

GROWTH SUMMARY

Greatest growth area:

Still needs attention:

COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED GROWTH

MY DAMASCUS ROAD COMMITMENTS

Just as Paul's encounter changed his entire life direction, these commitments chart your continued spiritual journey.



I WILL HEAR BETTER BY:



I WILL DO MORE BY:



I WILL CONTEND BY:



I WILL RELY ON THE SPIRIT BY:



MY TRANSFORMATION SUMMARY

How has this study changed me?

My next step in spiritual growth:

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITMENT

I will share these commitments with:

Date: _____

CELEBRATION & FINAL WORD



CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed the 8-week journey

"Hearing the Word, Doing the Word"



W1



W2



W3



W4



W5



W6



W7



W8



TAKE-HOME REMINDER

Your Transformed Life: "The ultimate take-home from this study is not a token but a transformed life - one that hears God's Word clearly, does it faithfully, and contends for truth lovingly, all by the power of the Holy Spirit."

FINAL MEMORY VERSE

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." - James 1:22-25

May the Lord continue to use His Word to transform you from the inside out, empowered by His Spirit, as you live out your faith with hearing hearts and doing hands.

RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL

Study Materials

"Study to show yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

— 2 Timothy 2:15

FOCUS: Tools and references for continued growth
in hearing and doing God's Word

99 ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES

Key doctrines from the 99 Essential Doctrines framework integrated throughout this study.

HOW TO USE THIS FRAMEWORK:

As you study James and Jude, identify which doctrines are being taught or applied. This framework helps you connect practical commands to theological foundations, moving from doctrine to life transformation.

CORE CATEGORIES

1. SCRIPTURE

Authority: God's Word as final rule for faith and practice

Inspiration: Scripture is God-breathed and without error

Mirror: Word reveals who we are and who to become (James 1:23-25)

→ Week 2: Hearing & Doing the Word

2. HOLY SPIRIT

Person: Third person of the Trinity, fully God

Inner Witness: Spirit testifies to truth and guides believers

Discernment: Enables recognition of false teaching (Jude 19-20)

→ Week 7: Contending for the Faith

3. SALVATION

Faith and Works: Saving faith produces good works (James 2:14-26)

Sanctification: Progressive growth in holiness by the Spirit

Justification: Declared righteous by faith alone in Christ

→ Week 3: Living Faith

4. CHRISTIAN LIVING

Speech: Taming the tongue demonstrates spiritual maturity (James 3)

Wisdom: Heavenly wisdom is pure and peaceable (James 3:17)

Prayer: Effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous (James 5:16)

→ Week 4: Wisdom & Speech | Week 6: Prayer

5. LAST THINGS

Contending: Defending the faith once delivered (Jude 3)

False Teaching: Warnings against apostasy and deception

Christ's Return: Patient expectation and holy living (James 5:7-8)

→ Week 7: Contending for the Faith

INTEGRATION PRINCIPLE

Sound doctrine provides the foundation for practical Christian living. James and Jude demonstrate how biblical truth transforms into obedient action through the Holy Spirit's power.

MEMORY VERSES

MEMORY TIPS:

- Write the verse on index cards and review daily
- Break longer verses into phrases and memorize one phrase per day
- Say it aloud - hearing yourself helps retention
- Connect the verse to your weekly token for visual memory
- Recite with your accountability partner or study group

WEEKLY VERSES

☐ Week 1:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." - Hebrews 11:1

☐ Week 2:

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." - James 1:22

☐ Week 3:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." - James 2:26

☐ Week 4:

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle..." - James 3:17

☐ Week 5:

"Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." - James 4:7-8a

☐ Week 6:

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." - James 5:16b

☐ Week 7:

"Building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit..." - Jude 20-21a

☐ Week 8:

"Be doers of the word..." - James 1:22-25

PROGRESS TRACKING

Check off each verse as you memorize it. Aim to review all verses weekly, even after you've moved to the next week. By Week 8, you'll have 8 powerful verses hidden in your heart!

TAKE-HOME TOKEN SUMMARY

Physical reminders to reinforce each week's lesson with corresponding memory verses

WEEKLY REMINDERS



Week 1 - Foundation Stone:

Building our spiritual life on hearing and doing

Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..."



Week 2 - Mirror:

God's Word shows us who we are and who to become

James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word..."



Week 3 - Puzzle Pieces:

Faith and works fit together perfectly

James 2:26 - "Faith without works is dead"



Week 4 - Compass:

Heavenly wisdom guides our words and decisions

James 3:17 - "Wisdom from above is first pure..."



Week 5 - Shield:

Holy Spirit protection in spiritual warfare

James 4:7-8a - "Submit to God. Resist the devil..."



Week 6 - Praying Hands:

Effective, fervent prayer through the Spirit

James 5:16b - "The prayer of a righteous man avails much"



Week 7 - Fortress:

Strong defense of biblical truth with mercy

Jude 20-21a - "Building yourselves up in faith..."



Week 8 - Transformed Life:

The ultimate goal of hearing and doing

James 1:22-25 - "Be doers of the word..."

PRAYER JOURNAL

WEEKLY FOCUSES

Week 1 - Foundation:

Pray for doctrine understanding and Holy Spirit witness

"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." - Matthew 7:24

Week 2 - Hearing:

Pray for receptive hearts and illumination

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." - John 10:27

Week 3 - Living Faith:

Pray for genuine works of love

"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." - James 2:17

Week 4 - Wisdom & Speech:

Pray for heavenly wisdom and controlled speech

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all." - James 1:5

Week 5 - Spiritual Warfare:

Pray for victory over worldliness

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." - James 4:7

Week 6 - Patience & Prayer:

Pray for endurance in trials

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." - James 5:16b

Week 7 - Contending:

Pray for discernment and mercy

"Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people." - Jude 3

Week 8 - Transformation:

Pray for continued growth as doers

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Carefully selected resources to deepen your understanding and application of James and Jude

CONNECTING RESOURCES TO YOUR JOURNEY:

Just as Paul's Damascus Road experience moved him from hearing about Jesus to encountering Him personally, these resources will move you from simply studying James and Jude to experiencing transformation. Each book is strategically connected to curriculum weeks to deepen your journey from hearer to doer. The commentaries illuminate the text's meaning, while the practical books help you live it out through the Holy Spirit's power.

COMMENTARIES – JAMES

Douglas Moo - "The Letter of James" (PNTC)

Scholarly yet accessible commentary providing deep theological insights into James' practical wisdom.

→ Excellent for Weeks 2-4 (Hearing, Faith & Works, Wisdom)

John MacArthur - "James" (MacArthur Commentary)

Verse-by-verse exposition emphasizing doctrinal foundations and practical application.

→ Strong for Week 1 (Foundation) and Week 3 (Faith & Works)

R.C. Sproul - "James" (St. Andrew's Commentary)

Clear, theologically rich teaching connecting James to Reformed theology and practical holiness.

→ Helpful throughout, especially Week 5 (Spiritual Warfare)

R. Kent Hughes - "James: Faith That Works"

Passionate, application-focused exposition perfect for personal study and group discussion.

→ Ideal for Week 3 (Living Faith) and Week 8 (Transformation)

J.A. Motyer - "The Message of James"

Warm, pastoral commentary connecting James' wisdom to contemporary Christian living.

→ Great companion for Week 4 (Wisdom & Speech)

WHY JAMES COMMENTARIES MATTER:

James is intensely practical, but good commentaries reveal the deep theological foundations beneath his teaching. Understanding the "why" behind James' commands helps us become better doers of the Word, moving from mere intellectual knowledge to Spirit-empowered obedience.

COMMENTARIES – JUDE

Thomas Schreiner - "1, 2 Peter, Jude" (NAC)

Thorough exegetical commentary unpacking Jude's warnings and Old Testament allusions.

→ Essential for Week 7 (Contending for the Faith)

Gene Green - "Jude and 2 Peter" (BECNT)

Detailed scholarly work balancing historical context with practical application for today's church.

→ Deep dive resource for Week 7

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING

Jonathan Edwards - "Religious Affections"

Classic work on distinguishing genuine faith from false religion through transformed affections.

→ Complements Week 3 (Faith & Works) and Week 8 (Transformation)

A.W. Tozer - "The Knowledge of the Holy"

Powerful meditation on God's attributes that deepens worship and reverent obedience.

→ Foundation for Week 1 and Week 5 (Submission to God)

J.I. Packer - "Knowing God"

Timeless work connecting knowledge of God to transformed living and obedient action.

→ Excellent for Week 1 (Foundation) and entire curriculum

J.I. Packer - "Knowing God"

Timeless work connecting knowledge of God to transformed living and obedient action.

→ Excellent for Week 1 (Foundation) and entire curriculum

R.C. Sproul - "The Holiness of God"

Eye-opening study of God's holiness that produces reverence and righteous living.

→ Pairs with Week 5 (Spiritual Warfare) and Week 7 (Contending)

Sherwood Eliot Wirt - "A Thirst for God"

Inspiring call to passionate pursuit of God through prayer and devotion.

→ Perfect for Week 6 (Patience & Prayer)

Henry Drummond - "Drummond's Addresses"

Powerful sermons on love, wisdom, and practical Christian character development.

→ Enriches Week 4 (Wisdom) and Week 3 (Living Faith)

WHY THIS MATTERS:

These classic works have stood the test of time because they don't just inform our minds—they transform our hearts. Like James and Jude, they call us to move from knowledge to action, from hearing to doing.

READING PLAN SUGGESTION:

Start with: One commentary on James (Moo or MacArthur) alongside the curriculum

Then add: One practical book (Packer's "Knowing God" pairs perfectly)

For deeper study: Add Schreiner on Jude during Week 7

For continued growth: Work through Edwards and Tozer after completing the study

STUDY SUGGESTIONS

FURTHER STUDY

Related NT Books:

Acts: See the Damascus Road transformation in action (Acts 9, 22, 26)

1 Peter: Living faith through trials - complements James' teaching on perseverance

2 Peter: Warnings against false teachers - parallels Jude's message

Galatians: Faith and works relationship from Paul's perspective

Jesus' Teachings on Hearing & Doing:

Matthew 7:24-27: The wise and foolish builders - foundation of Week 1

Luke 11:28: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it"

John 13:17: "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them"

OT Connections:

Deuteronomy 30: Choose life - obedience brings blessing

Psalms 119: Love for God's Word - the mirror concept from Week 2

Proverbs 1-9: Wisdom literature - foundation for Week 4

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

WEEKS 1-2: FOUNDATION & HEARING

Study Matthew 7:24-27 alongside James 1:19-27. Explore how Jesus' parable of the builders connects to James' mirror analogy. Both emphasize the critical importance of not just hearing but doing.

WEEK 3: FAITH & WORKS

Compare James 2 with Galatians 2-3 and Ephesians 2:8-10. Study how Paul and James complement rather than contradict each other on faith and works.

WEEK 4: WISDOM & SPEECH

Deep dive into Proverbs on wisdom and speech. Study James 3 alongside Proverbs 10:19, 12:18, 15:1-2, 18:21 to see the OT foundation for controlling the tongue.

WEEK 5: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Study James 4 with Ephesians 6:10-18. Examine how submission to God and resisting the devil connects to putting on the full armor of God. The Holy Spirit is our strength in battle.

WEEK 6: PATIENCE & PRAYER

Study James 5 alongside Romans 8:26-27 on the Holy Spirit's role in prayer. Explore the patience of Job and the prophets as examples of endurance through suffering.

WEEK 7: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Compare Jude with 2 Peter 2-3. Both address false teachers using similar language and examples. Study how to contend for truth while showing mercy to doubters.

WEEK 8: TRANSFORMATION

Review Paul's Damascus Road experience (Acts 9, 22, 26) as the ultimate example of transformation from hearer to doer. Study 2 Corinthians 5:17 on becoming a new creation.

FOR GROUP LEADERS

Weekly Preparation:

- Prepare token objects for each week (stone, mirror, puzzle pieces, compass, shield, praying hands, fortress, transformation symbol)
- Review Damascus Road theme and how it connects to the week's lesson
- Emphasize the Holy Spirit's role in hearing, understanding, and doing
- Connect doctrine to practical application in every session
- Encourage verse memorization with the provided weekly verses
- Use the prayer journal prompts for small group prayer time

Discussion Tips:

- Ask "How does this passage call us to action?" in every study
- Share personal testimonies of transformation
- Create accountability for applying the week's lesson
- Integrate the 99 Essential Doctrines framework throughout
- End each session with commitment to specific action steps

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Book of James

Author: James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church. Known as "James the Just" for his righteousness and devotion to prayer. He was martyred around 62 AD.

Date: Approximately 45-50 AD, making it possibly the earliest New Testament letter

Audience: Jewish Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire ("the twelve tribes scattered abroad")

Purpose: To address practical Christian living and the relationship between faith and works

Key Themes: Trials and perseverance, wisdom, taming the tongue, faith demonstrated through works, prayer

CONTEXT:

Written to Jewish believers facing persecution and dispersion after Stephen's martyrdom. James addresses the challenge of living out authentic Christian faith in difficult circumstances, emphasizing that genuine faith always produces corresponding actions.

The Book of Jude

Author: Jude, another half-brother of Jesus and brother of James. Initially skeptical of Jesus' ministry but became a believer after the resurrection.

Date: Approximately 65-80 AD

Audience: General Christian audience facing infiltration by false teachers

Purpose: To warn against false teachers and encourage believers to contend earnestly for the faith

Key Themes: Contending for the faith, warnings against apostasy, God's judgment on the ungodly, building up in faith

CONTEXT:

Written during a period when false teachers were secretly infiltrating churches, turning God's grace into license for immorality. Jude uses vivid Old Testament examples and apocalyptic imagery to warn believers and call them to spiritual vigilance and mercy toward those who doubt.

DAMASCUS ROAD SIGNIFICANCE

Paul's Damascus Road experience (Acts 9, 22, 26) represents the ultimate transformation from hearing to doing God's will. Key elements include:

- Supernatural encounter with the risen Christ
- Immediate submission to divine authority
- Spiritual blindness healed by the Holy Spirit
- Complete life transformation and mission focus
- Lifelong pattern of faithful obedience

CONCLUSION

This study of James and Jude, viewed through the lens of Paul's Damascus Road transformation, calls us to a life of active obedience to God's Word. The Holy Spirit works in every believer to produce the same pattern: divine encounter, spiritual illumination, personal transformation, and mission-focused living.

May the Lord use this study to transform you from a hearer only into a faithful doer of His Word, empowered by His Spirit and committed to contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

TRANSFORMATION & OBEDIENCE:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." - 2 Corinthians 5:17

HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERMENT:

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." - Zechariah 4:6

FAITH & ACTION:

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH:

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called..." - 1 Timothy 6:12

MY COMMITMENT

COVENANT TO BE A HEARER AND DOER OF THE WORD

Having completed this 8-week study through James and Jude, I recognize that God calls me not merely to hear His Word, but to actively obey and live it out. By the power of the Holy Spirit working within me, I commit to:

- Be quick to hear God's voice through Scripture and slow to speak my own opinions
- Demonstrate living faith through genuine works of love and obedience
- Seek heavenly wisdom in my speech and allow the Holy Spirit to control my tongue
- Submit to God daily and resist worldly influences that war against my soul
- Pray with persistence and patience, trusting in God's perfect timing
- Contend for the faith while showing mercy to those who doubt
- Continue growing as a faithful doer of God's Word, not a forgetful hearer

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." - James 1:22

Signature:

Date:

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy"

— JUDE 24

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Additional Scripture quotations may be taken from other translations for comparison and study purposes.

DOCTRINAL CONTENT

Doctrinal summaries adapted from “99 Essential Doctrines” by The Gospel Project. These summaries are provided for educational purposes. For complete doctrinal explanations, please visit The Gospel Project at the link provided via QR code in this study guide.

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