

***faith
that
works***

A Study in James

**FEARLESS
FOLLOWER**

FAITH THAT WORKS

The book of James provides wisdom for several areas of life and our relationship with Jesus. James challenges us to practice our faith in tangible and active ways!

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE:

We've outlined the book of James to follow along with our weekly teachings. We've also selected passages that align thematically with James or are in reference to something the author notes. Follow along with these daily readings and our Bible Study Method to grow deeper in your understanding of God's word and your relationship with Jesus! ***This Guide works best with your STUDY BIBLE and a JOURNAL.***

FEARLESS WORD OF THE DAY:

This series guide follows our Fearless Word of the Day Bible Reading Plan. You can view the plan online and hear thoughts from our Fearless Leaders at fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

BIBLE STUDY METHOD:

As you read, keep this in mind:

Studying Scripture can feel like a daunting task. This is where a simple practice in going through a Bible passage can be tremendously helpful. The ultimate goal for interacting with Scripture is not only to read it, but to also to understand it and apply it. *It's not just about getting into God's Word, it's about God's Word getting into you.* Here is a simple method we recommend.

WHAT IT SAYS

After you have read the passage, pray for guidance and paraphrase it. As you think of different ways to put into words what you've read, the Holy Spirit will begin to guide you to a deeper understanding.

WHAT IT MEANS

Now dig deep and uncover the full meaning of the text. Go through the passage slowly and examine specific words (words you don't understand or intrigue you). Ask specific questions of the text (Why did Jesus say that? Who is the audience this was originally written to?) A Study Bible (Bible with commentary) or a study guide (like we are providing here) will help.

WHAT I'LL DO

This is probably the most important (though difficult) part of your study. Ask God to give you specific applications (i.e. something you are going to do today, a new thought you are going to focus on throughout the day, a prayer you are going to pray now and then before bedtime).

Learn more about studying the Bible: fearlessfollower.org/howtostudythebible

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 1



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (MAY 31) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 1: 1

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

James writes to Jewish Christians, perhaps Jerusalem believers scattered after Stephen's death...A key situation that James's preaching would have naturally often addressed would be the tensions that within a few years culminated in full-blown war with Rome in AD 66. The material in this letter fits James's lifetime; he was killed about AD 62. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

TUESDAY (JUNE 1) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 1: 2-4

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Like some Gentile philosophers, many Jewish thinkers emphasized enduring times of testing, and occasionally even joy in them, due to faith in God's sovereignty (see note on 1Pe 1: 6). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

WEDNESDAY (JUNE 2) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 1: 5-6

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Both Greek and Jewish (Isa 57: 20) sources sometimes portrayed the unstable as being blown on the sea, as here, so hearers would relate readily to James's image. In James, a request for wisdom offered in faith (v. 5) must mean that one is prepared to obey whatever God reveals. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (JUNE 3) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 1: 7-8

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Jewish wisdom texts condemn the double-minded (cf. 4: 8) or double-tongued person; like philosophers, Jewish sages abhorred the hypocrisy of saying one thing and living another way, and speaking or living inconsistently. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (JUNE 4) **WHAT IT SAYS**

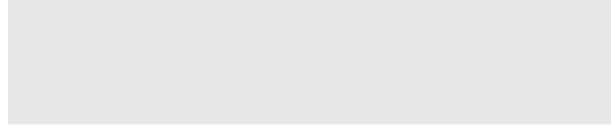
Turn to James 1: 9-10

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Conditions were also dismal for the poor in Jerusalem. Whereas the aristocracy lived in spacious homes in Jerusalem's upper city, the city's poor lived downwind of that city's sewers. When the aristocratic priests there began to withhold tithe income from the poorer priests, their only means of support, economic tensions increased. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.



WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

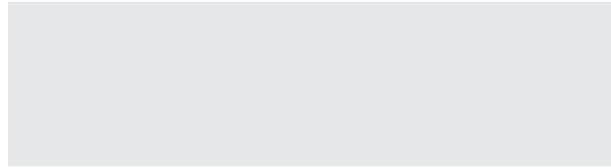
2.

SATURDAY (JUNE 5)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

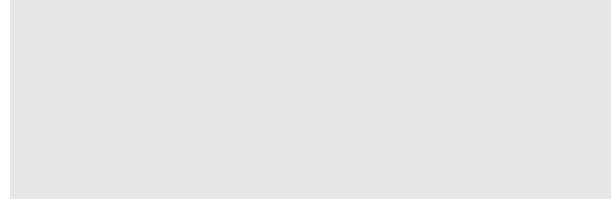


WHAT IT MEANS

Corinth hosted the Isthmian Games every two years (at least once during Paul's stay; Ac 18: 11,18); next to the Olympics, this was the most popular of the Greek games. Urban residents were familiar with racing, boxing, and other competitions. (Races were the first event in the Pentathlon, but it did not include boxing.) Preparation for contests involved strict discipline, including, e.g., ten months of training before Olympic competitions. Victors' crowns at Greek competitions were wreaths: wild olive for the Olympics and pine or withered celery for the Isthmian Games. Some other writers spoke of garlands figuratively (occasionally even in the OT; cf. the Greek version of Isa 28: 5 ; 62: 3). Ancient writers, including Diaspora Jews, routinely employed athletic illustrations; in 1Co 9: 24-27 Paul compares athletes' physical discipline with the deliberate self-

discipline needed to persevere. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.



WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

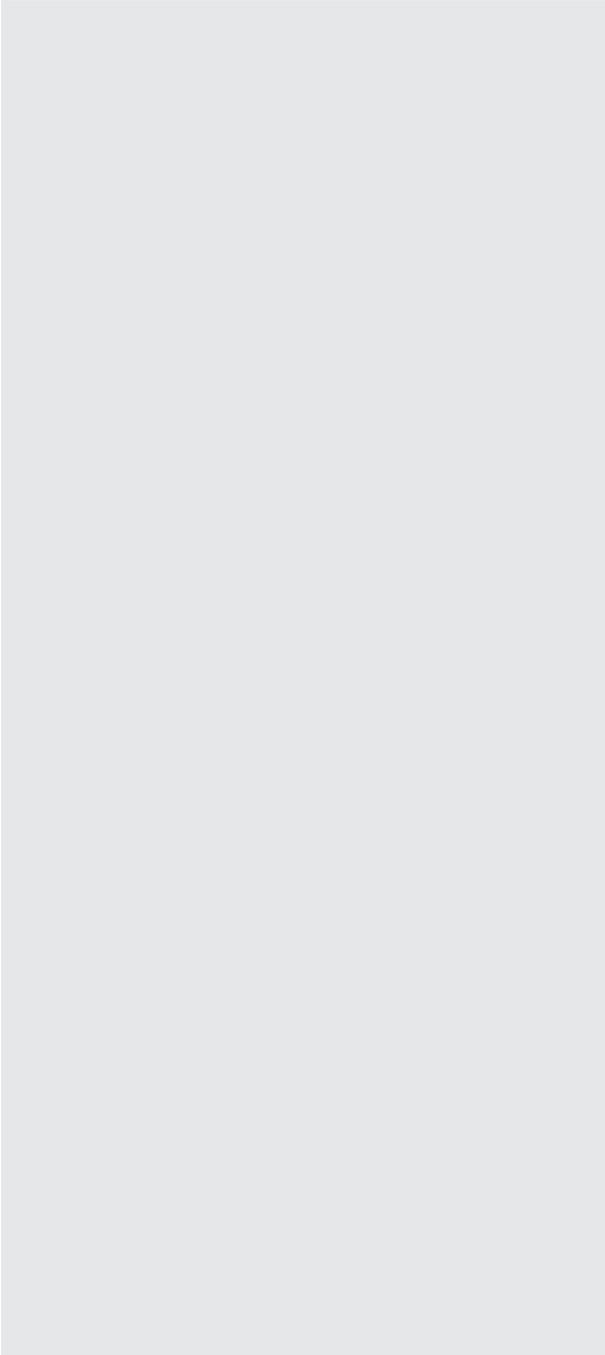
2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Handling Trials - June 6

Text: James 1:1-12

SERMON NOTES

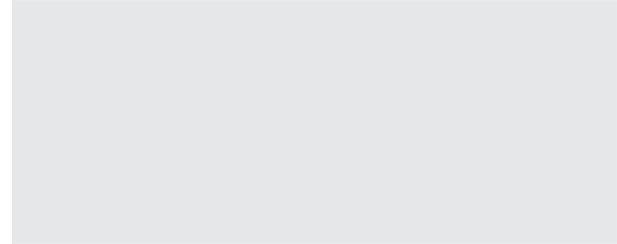


LOOKING BACK

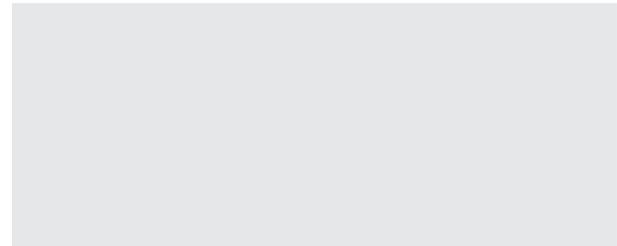
READ JAMES 1:1-12

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

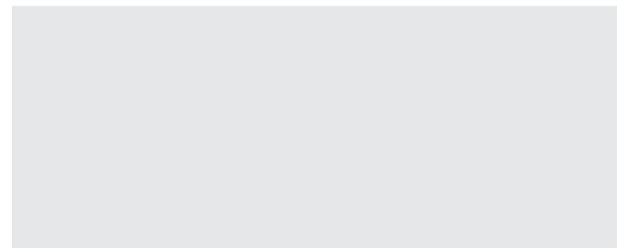
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 2



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (JUNE 7) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 1: 13-15

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Although James does not deny Satan's indirect role (4:7), he emphasizes here the human element in succumbing to temptation. In contrast to Greek sources, where people often protested that temptation was irresistible, Jewish wisdom recognized that people were responsible for their choices if they fell during testing. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

TUESDAY (JUNE 8) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to 1 Corinthians 10: 13

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Writers on moral topics frequently urged their hearers to run from vices (cf. 6:18). Sacrificial food was closely connected with idols. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

WEDNESDAY (JUNE 9) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Psalm 7: 14-16

In the space below write the passage in your

own words:

[Blank writing area]

WHAT IT MEANS

The Old Testament word for Wisdom was and is the same word for “skill or craftsmanship.” The Israelites believed that Wisdom the skillful navigation of life. Therefore, much of their Wisdom books emphasize the importance of “cause and effect” in daily decisions.

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

[Blank writing area]

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (JUNE 10)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Romans 6: 21-23

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

[Blank writing area]

WHAT IT MEANS

Ancient intellectuals combated slavery to wrong

ideas, to passions, and sometimes to concerns or dependence on others. Slaveholders often freed slaves, though they retained responsibilities to each other (see notes on 1Co 7: 21,22); death, however, ended all obligations (as in Ro 7: 2–3). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

[Blank writing area]

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (JUNE 11)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Numbers 23: 19

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

[Blank writing area]

WHAT IT MEANS

Unlike the gods of Mesopotamia, who were often whimsical and malleable, Israel’s God was unchangeable and therefore of incomparable integrity. Mesopotamian gods were believed to be capable of exploiting the ambiguity of omens to their pleasure. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

SATURDAY (JUNE 12)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to John 1: 12-13

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

In the OT, God made his chosen people his children (Ex 4:22 ; Dt 8: 5 ; 32: 5). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

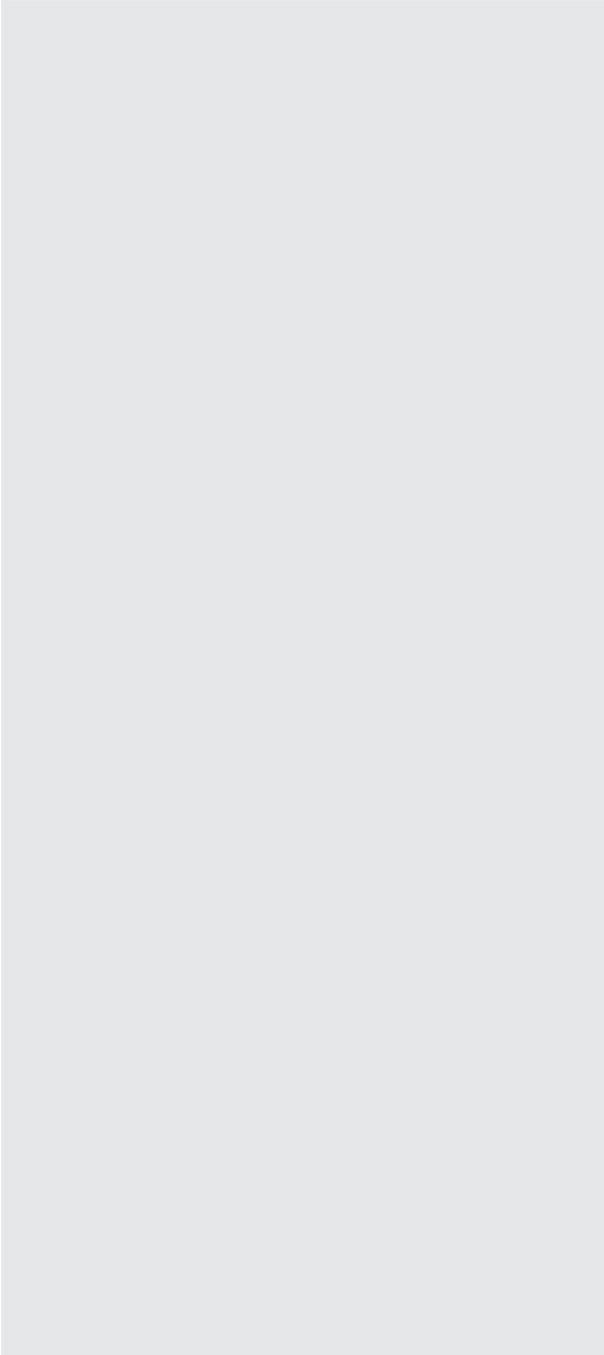
In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Handling Temptations - June 13
Text: James 1: 13-18

SERMON NOTES

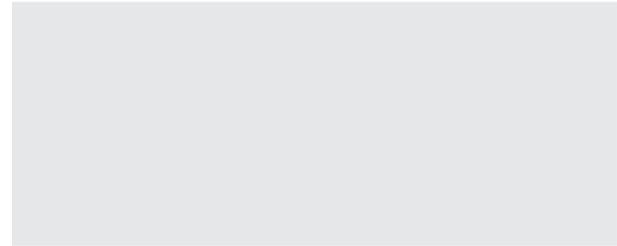


LOOKING BACK

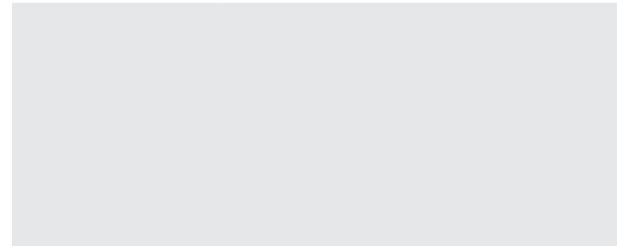
READ JAMES 1: 13-18

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

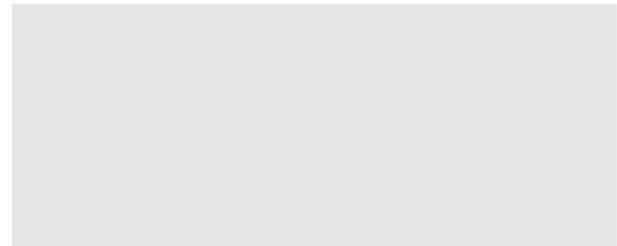
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 3



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (JUNE 14) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 1: 19-21

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

These are by far some of the most common admonitions in Jewish wisdom, from Proverbs on...James contrasts this Biblical and traditional wisdom with the revolutionary fervor sweeping his land. Jewish nationalists, having suffered much oppression, were tempted to strike at the Romans and their aristocratic vassals, thinking that such revolt (which broke out fully in AD 66) would serve God's righteous indignation. But James associates righteousness with peace (3: 18) and nonresistance (5: 7). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

TUESDAY (JUNE 15) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Proverbs 10: 19, Proverbs 14: 29

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Self-control in speech is a highly desired trait according to both Biblical and Egyptian sages. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

WEDNESDAY (JUNE 16)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 1: 22-25

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Those with enough resources to own mirrors used them when fixing their hair; if James alludes to such people, he portrays the forgetful hearer as stupid. Alternatively, he refers to many people who had no mirrors and saw themselves rarely, who might more naturally forget their own appearance. In this case the reference is to the ease with which one loses the memory of the word if one does not work hard to put it into practice. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (JUNE 17)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Matthew 7: 21

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Although Greek and Jewish accounts sometimes delegated judgment to an exalted human, the ultimate judge in Jewish belief was God. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (JUNE 18)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to John 14: 23-24

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

God's presence with all his people was always the ideal even in this age (Ex 25: 8 ; 29: 46 ; Lev 26: 11-12) and was the promise for the future era (Eze 37:27-28 ; 43:9); through the Spirit God's people experience his presence on a much more personal level than before (as suggested in Eze 36:27). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

SATURDAY (JUNE 19)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Deuteronomy 10: 18-19

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

...as socially vulnerable classes, widows and orphans must be protected with extra care. Using the terms "widow" and "fatherless" together may have been a way of designating disadvantaged classes in general. Groups other

than true widows and orphans easily might have fallen into this category. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

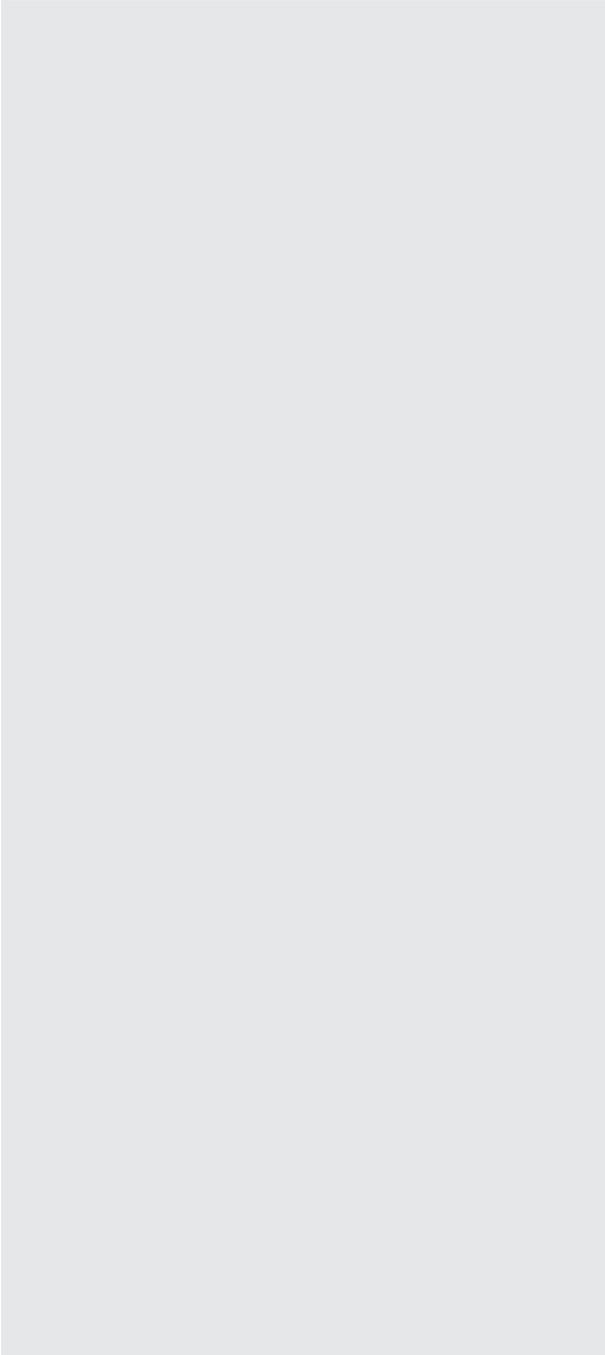
Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Listening and Doing - June 20
Text: James 1: 19-27

SERMON NOTES

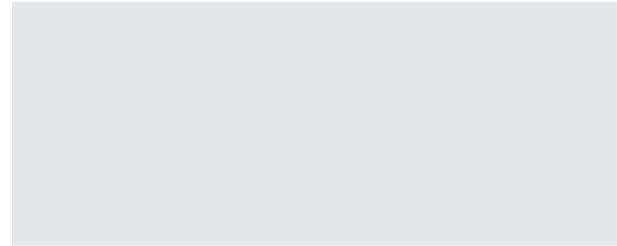


LOOKING BACK

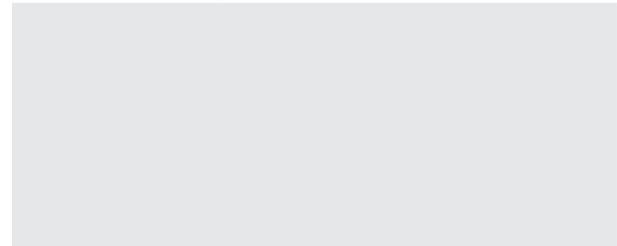
READ JAMES 1:19-27

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

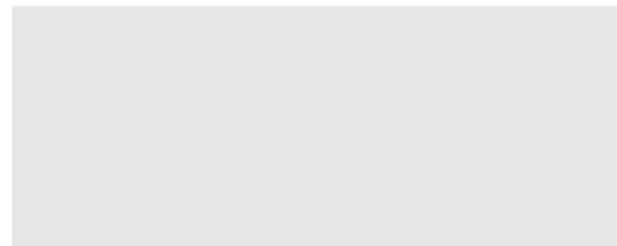
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 4



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (JUNE 21) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 1-4

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Roman courts favored the rich; in the second century, this preference was even written into laws, as it also was in many other legal collections such as those from the ancient Near East. Judges were of higher social rank and did not ordinarily trust persons of lower class, who were thought to act from economic self-interest when they brought accusations against persons of higher class. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

TUESDAY (JUNE 22) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 5-7

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

God heard the cries of the poor, who were the most easily oppressed judicially (Ex 22:27 ; Dt 15:9)...Roman courts favored the rich, who could initiate lawsuits against social inferiors, although social inferiors could not hope to win lawsuits against them. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

WEDNESDAY (JUNE 23) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Only a few people in antiquity, fewer than 1 percent, belonged to the truly elite class or the very wealthy; prosperous Corinth would have more people of moderate wealth, but the poor still constituted the majority of the city. In Corinth, even most of the wealthy descended from people of lower class or freed persons, not from a hereditary nobility. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (JUNE 24) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 8-9

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Favortism violated God's law which might be one element subsumed under loving one's neighbor in Lev 19:18. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (JUNE 25) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 10-11

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

When James was writing, Judean revolutionaries were periodically murdering aristocrats in the temple. Likewise, careless governors sometimes slaughtered protestors and bystanders indiscriminately, some members of the priestly aristocracy hired assassins, and rich landlords sometimes killed tenants (cf. 5:6). Some of these people, especially the revolutionaries, may have justified their behavior religiously. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

SATURDAY (JUNE 26)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Matthew 5: 7-8

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Ps 37: 11 promises that the meek (the humble, the lowly, those who depend on the Lord rather than themselves [cf. Ps 37: 9 ; cf. also "poor in

spirit" in Mt 5: 3]) would inherit the earth. the earth. Although this could mean simply "the land," by Jesus' day Jewish people spoke of the righteous "inheriting the kingdom" and thus ruling the world (cf. Da 7: 14). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

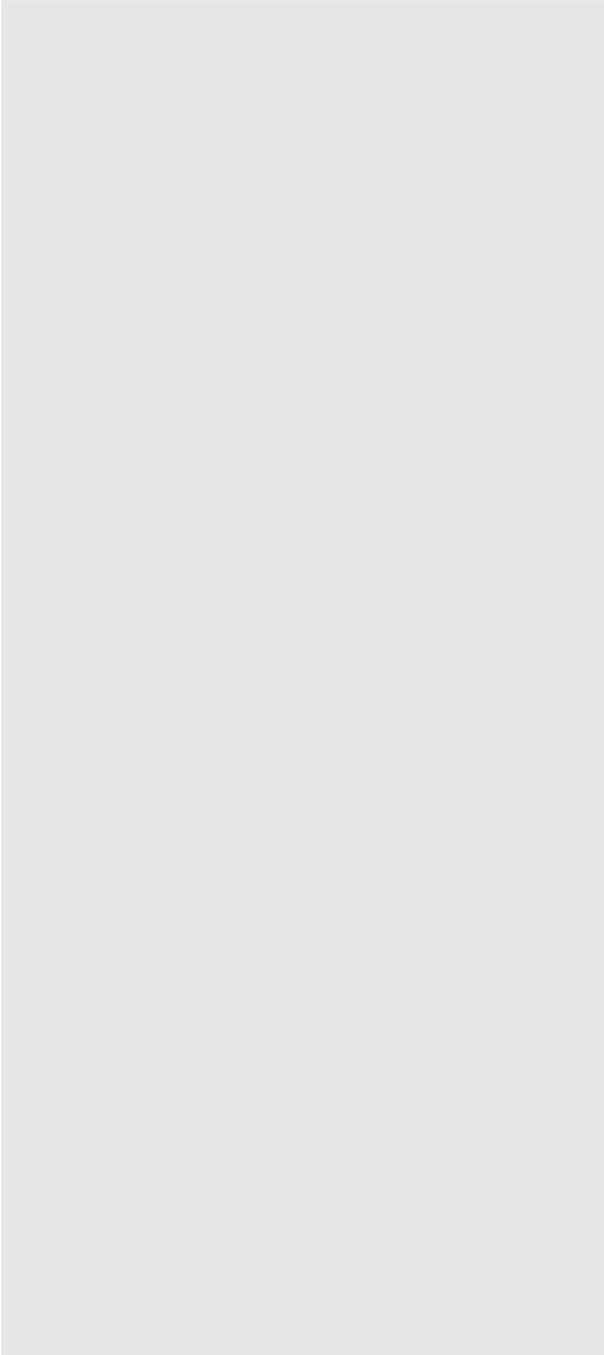
1.

2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Favoritism Forbidden - June 27
Text: James 2: 1-13

SERMON NOTES

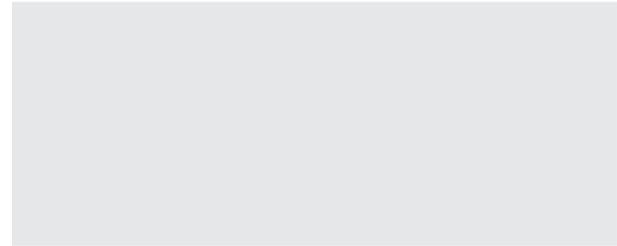


LOOKING BACK

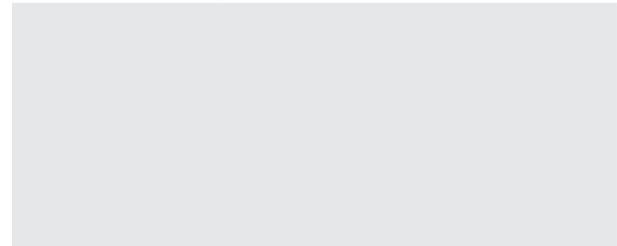
READ JAMES 2: 1-13

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

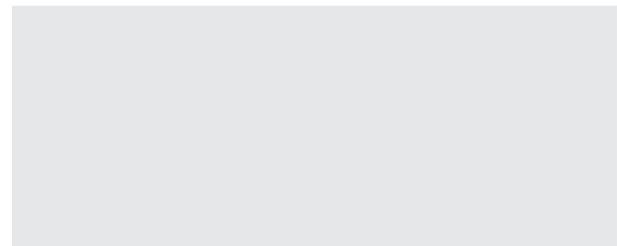
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 5



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (JUNE 28) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 14-15

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

James uses the term “faith” differently here from the way Paul does, but neither writer would disagree with the other’s point: genuine faith is a reality on which one stakes one’s life, not merely passive assent to a doctrine. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

TUESDAY (JUNE 29) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 2: 16- 17

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

A Jewish farewell blessing; but Jewish people were expected to show hospitality to other Jewish people in need. They held Abraham as the ultimate example of good hospitality (cf. vv. 21–23). “Keep warm” alludes to how cold the homeless could become, in Judea relevant especially in Jerusalem and the Judean hill country. Teachers sometimes used absurd examples like this one to point out where faulty thinking can lead. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

WEDNESDAY (JUNE 30) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Hebrews 11: 6-7

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Many early Jewish stories honored Noah. (Later rabbis, emphasizing that most of Noah's descendants were Gentiles, preferred to transfer such stories to Moses.) Jewish teachers sometimes noted that the righteous choices of the righteous would discredit the excuses of the wicked on the day of judgment. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

LOOKING BACK

Reflect on the past month. What stands out as the biggest insights and greatest personal challenges from James?