

**This journal
belongs to:**

Note: All scripture is taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).

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How to use this Journal

This scripture journal is designed to help you follow Jesus. Inside, you'll find the entire book of James, verse by verse. Take notes as you hear from God's Word. This journal also includes a response guide you can use during the week as we journey through this series together!

Grow in your walk with Christ as we study this book
in the coming weeks.

James at-a- glance

Author: James (the half-brother of Jesus)

Date Written: 40–50 A.D.

Main Idea: True wisdom comes from living out your faith according to the way of Jesus.

Key Passages:

Enduring Trials (1:12–15)

Faith & Works (2:12–26)

The Power of the Tongue (3:1–12)

Pursuing Humility (4:6–10)

Praying in Faith (5:13–18)

About the book of James

James is a punchy and practical book of the bible that will challenge how you live.

James was originally written as a short letter to the early church in Jerusalem by Jesus' own brother, James. After Peter left Jerusalem to start new churches, James became the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12, 15; Galatians 1-2). This church was the first Christian community ever. Like many of the early churches, it endured lots of difficulty and persecution.

In just five short chapters, James encourages followers of Jesus with several different lessons on how to live out the gospel in



their everyday lives. Many of these wise lessons are echoes of other biblical teachings, specifically the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and Proverbs 1-9. James is reminding us of what Jesus calls us to.

Just like Jesus, James calls the church to love God and to love their neighbor as themselves. Despite our pain and suffering, we can live with hope, knowing that God is transforming us into his image. He has our best in mind. One day, Jesus will return to set all things right. While we patiently wait for that day, God works in us and through us. According to James, true wisdom means trusting that God is good, despite our circumstances.

In short, James is writing this letter so that you and I would see that **true wisdom comes from living out your faith according to the way of Jesus.**

The Book of James



The Book of James

The book of James

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord
Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Greetings.

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you
meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know
that the testing of your faith produces
steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have
its full effect, that you may be perfect and
complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask
God, who gives generously to all without
reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But
let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for



the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when



he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are

committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there



will be disorder and every vile practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?

..... of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate
..... and merciful.
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..... ¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear,
..... either by heaven or by earth or by any
..... other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and
..... your “no” be no, so that you may not fall
..... under condemnation.
.....

..... ¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him
..... pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing
..... praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let
..... him call for the elders of the church, and let
..... them pray over him, anointing him with oil
..... in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer
..... of faith will save the one who is sick, and
..... the Lord will raise him up. And if he has
..... committed sins, he will be forgiven.
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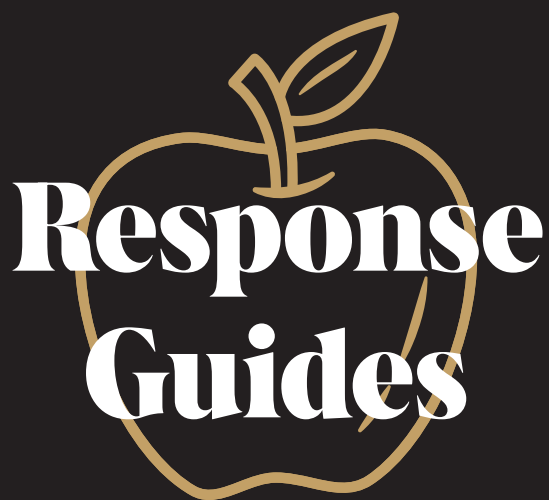
..... ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one
..... another and pray for one another, that you
..... may be healed. The prayer of a righteous
..... person has great power as it is working.
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..... ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours,





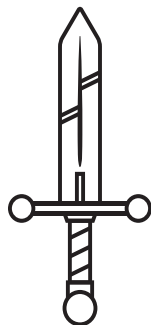
Response Guides



Response Guides

Week 1 Response Guide

Facing Trials & Temptations



Read: James 1:2-4, 1:12-15, 5:7-11

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

What is a difficulty that you're going through right now? Do you see God moving in the midst of it?

How do you typically react when you encounter something difficult? How does this passage change your perspective to see these trials as opportunities to grow in Christ?

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What are some areas where you are commonly tempted to sin? How might God be providing a way out? (See 1 Corinthians 10:13.)

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Remember:
Memorizing scripture equips you with God’s wisdom, guidance, and comfort at all times. It strengthens your faith and empowers you to encourage others in their faith journey.

This week, memorize: James 1:2–3

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 2 Response Guide

Practice What You Preach



Read: James 1:22-27

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

What areas of your life do you find it tough to act on what you believe?

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What steps can you take to become more of a “doer” of the word in your daily life?

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What can you do to care for those in need, specifically those who can do nothing for you in return?

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This week, memorize: James 1:22

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 3 Response Guide

Playing Favorites



Read: James 2:1-13

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

What is a time when you treated someone differently based on their appearance or status? What do you think could have been done differently to treat that person as God sees them?

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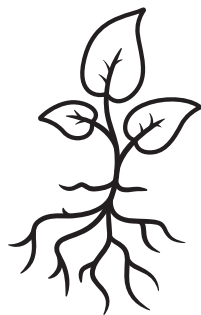
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CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 4 Response Guide

Actions Fueled by Faith



Read: James 2:14-26, 4:17

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

When have you found yourself in a situation where you had good intentions but didn't follow through with the right actions? What steps can you take to ensure that your faith is demonstrated through meaningful actions versus simply having good intentions?

What is a past example in your life where your faith has motivated you to act in a way that reflects God’s love and grace?

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What are some examples of good actions you feel called to do but have been putting off?

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This week, memorize: James 2:17

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Week 5 Response Guide

Watch Your Words



Read: James 1:19-20, 1:26, 3:1-12, 5:12

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

Would those closest to you describe you as someone who is quick to listen and slow to speak? How can you speak more thoughtfully in your daily interactions with others?

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Why do you think James highlights the contradiction of praising God with our words while also speaking negatively about others?

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What steps can you take to better manage your words and avoid causing harm? Who is someone you could encourage this week?

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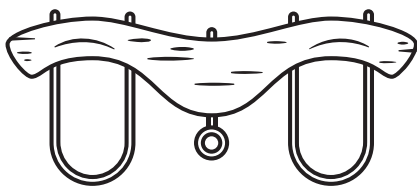
This week, memorize: James 1:19

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 6 Response Guide

God is Smarter than You

Read: James 1:5, 3:13-18



Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

Where are you prone to turn for wisdom and guidance before turning to God?

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What areas in your life do you most often struggle with envy or selfish ambition?

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In what ways can you become a peacemaker in your community, workplace, or family?

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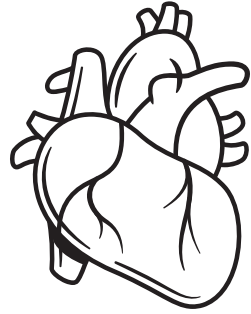
Memorizing scripture equips you with God’s wisdom, guidance, and comfort at all times. It strengthens your faith and empowers you to encourage others in their faith journey.

This week, memorize: James 1:5

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 7 Response Guide

Your Motives Matter



Read: James 4:1-5, 8-9

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

What desires and internal battles on cause unhealthy conflicts in your life?

These verses highlight three common problems in prayer: asking for the wrong things, asking for the wrong reasons, or not praying at all. Which of these do you struggle with the most, and what is one step you can take to avoid falling into that trap?

What is one practical step you can take to draw nearer to God in your daily life this week?

Remember:

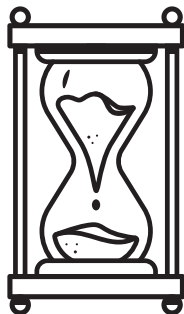
Memorizing scripture equips you with God’s wisdom, guidance, and comfort at all times. It strengthens your faith and empowers you to encourage others in their faith journey.

This week, memorize: James 4:8

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 8 Response Guide

Pursue Humility



Read: James 4:6-7, 10

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

In what areas of your life are you struggling with pride, and how is it affecting your relationship with God and others?

In what ways have you seen God lift you up or bless you when you have humbled yourself before Him in the past?

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What practical steps can you take this week to humble yourself before God and be obedient to Him?

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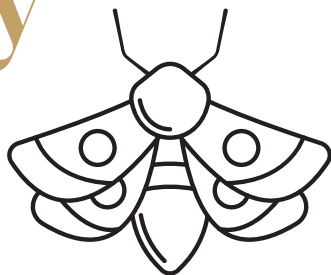
Remember:
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This week, memorize: James 4:10

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 9 Response Guide

A Warning to the Wealthy



Read: James 5:1-6

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

What areas of your life are you tempted to place your trust in what is temporary rather than what is eternal?

How can you ensure that your use of resources reflects generosity and stewardship instead of greed?

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What changes can you make to live more simply and generously, focusing on helping others instead of self-indulgence?

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Remember:
Memorizing scripture equips you with God’s wisdom, guidance, and comfort at all times. It strengthens your faith and empowers you to encourage others in their faith journey.

This week, memorize: James 1:27

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.

Week 10 Response Guide

Praying in Faith



Read: James 1:6-8, 5:13-18

Reflect:

Answer these questions on your own, then discuss your answers with others for encouragement and accountability.

How has God's faithfulness in the past built a more steadfast and unwavering faith in you today?

How can you more consistently turn to prayer during times of trouble? How can you more consistently turn to prayer to express gratitude and praise during times of happiness?

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What is a sin you should confess to someone else this week for healing and support?

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Remember:
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This week, memorize: James 5:16

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE IN THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SECTION ON PAGE 74.



Additional Resources



CROSSROADS SUNDAY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP SERVICES | English & Spanish
9:00AM & 10:45AM

LIFEGROUPS | English & Spanish
9:00AM & 10:45AM

*Student LifeGroups meet at 9AM only



CONNECT AT CROSSROADS

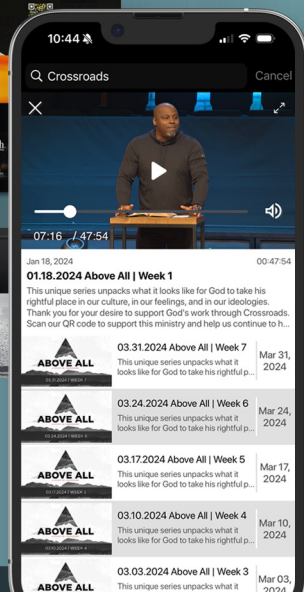
Looking to stay up-to-date on church-wide events? Curious about our financial giving and budget? What about a daily devotional? Our digital bulletin is an easy way stay connected to Crossroads via your phone. Text CRCONNECT to 94000, and you will receive a weekly bulletin every Sunday morning.



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Additional Resources

Scripture Memorization Tips

Tip #1 - Write the first letter of each word of the verse on a sticky note, index card, or in the notes app on your phone. Practice saying the verse while looking at the note, then gradually reduce reliance on the note until you can recite the verses without it.

Tip #2 - Repeatedly recite the verse throughout the day to reinforce memory. Try saying it aloud in the morning, during breaks, and before bed.

Tip #3 - Write the verse by hand multiple times each day, then read it aloud, to engage different parts of your brain. Set a goal to write the verse from memory by the end of the week.

Tip #4 - Use index cards, posters, or sticky notes to place the verse in frequently seen locations like your bathroom mirror, car dashboard, or refrigerator.

Tip #5 - Break the verse into smaller sections and memorize each section individually before putting them together. For example, “be quick to hear,” “slow to speak,” “slow to anger,” etc.

Tip #6 - Put the verses to a familiar tune or rhythm to make it easier to remember (like “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” It might seem silly at first, but it works! (If you’re a parent, this is a great way to teach your kids too!)

Tip #7 - Explain the verse to someone else to reinforce your own memory. Discuss this verse’s meaning and application with a different family member or friend each day during the week.

Tip #8 - Link the verse with a powerful image in your mind. Try to imagine what’s being said in the verse actually happening around you.

Tip #9 - Utilize apps designed for scripture memorization, which often include games and quizzes to reinforce learning. Apps like “Bible Memory” or “Scripture Typer” can be very helpful!

Tip #10 - Assign specific gestures/motions to different parts of the verse. Moving as you recite can help reinforce memory through repetitive movement.



Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet trials of
various kinds, for you know
that the testing of your
faith produces steadfastness.

James 1:2-3



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

James 1:22



For judgment is
without mercy to one
who has shown
no mercy. Mercy triumphs
over judgment.

James 2:13



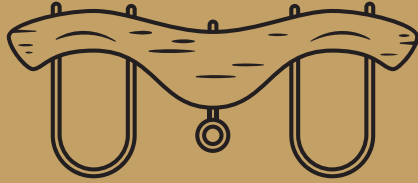
So also faith by itself,
if it does not
have works, is dead.

James 2:17



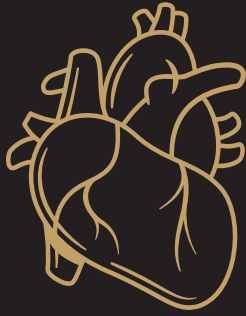
Know this, my
beloved brothers: let every
person be quick to hear,
slow to speak, slow to anger.

James 1:19



If any of you lacks wisdom,
let him ask God,
who gives generously to all
without reproach,
and it will be given him.

James 1:5



Draw near to God,
and he will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, you
sinners, and purify your hearts,
you double-minded.

James 4:8



Humble yourselves
before the Lord,
and He will exalt you.

James 4:10

WEEK 8 MEMORY VERSE



Religion that is pure
and undefiled before God
the Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows
in their affliction,
and to keep oneself unstained
from the world.

James 1:27



Therefore, confess your sins
to one another and pray
for one another, that you may
be healed. The prayer of
a righteous person has great
power as it is working.

James 5:16

