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C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

BOOK OF JAMES

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like Approach in Reaching Everyone

Copies of this Study Material can be found
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Table of Contents

	Date to Cover
1. JAMES 1:1-18	_____
2. JAMES 1:19-27	_____
3. JAMES 2:1-13	_____
4. JAMES 2:14-26	_____
5. JAMES 3:1-12	_____
6. JAMES 3:13-18	_____
7. JAMES 4:1-12	_____
8. JAMES 4:13-17	_____
9. JAMES 5:1-6	_____
10. JAMES 5:7-12	_____
11. JAMES 5:13-20	_____

Notes

1. James 1:1-18

This passage gives some hard-to-swallow advice to Christians—be joyful whenever you face trials. It is easy to obey God when life is good, but the depth of our character is revealed under the pressure of pain and persecution. True believers persevere in their faith, regardless of the circumstances.

OPEN

1. How do you think the saying, "No pain, no gain," can be applied to the Christian life?

EXPLORE

2. What did James tell believers to do when they face troubles? (1:2, 5-6)
3. What are the potential benefits of troubles and temptations? (1:3-4, 12)
4. Who should not expect to receive anything from the Lord? (1:6-8)
5. How can people be happy when they are tempted? (1:12)

GET IT

6. What important lessons have you learned from the trials in your life?
7. How can we prepare ourselves to face times of trouble or temptation?
8. How should you pray when you need help from God?
9. How can you remind yourself of God's promise in this passage the next time you face temptation?

APPLY

10. Through what present trouble or trial do you need to persevere? How?

2. James 1:19-27

God wants us to do more than listen to his Word; he requires that we obey it. It is not enough to say that we are Christians; our speech must reflect Christ's love and humility. It is not enough to study God's Word; we must live it out by caring for the needy and keeping ourselves free from worldly influences. Our walk must match our talk.

OPEN

1. How do most people react to someone who does not practice what he or she preaches?

EXPLORE

2. What hinders people from pleasing God? (1:19-20)
3. How did James illustrate the foolishness of merely listening to God's Word? (1:22-25)
4. According to this passage, how can people find true happiness? (1:25)
5. What kind of religion does God accept? (1:26-27)

GET IT

6. How can you evaluate the effectiveness of your Bible reading?
7. How do we fool ourselves into thinking we are pleasing God?
8. What do your attitudes and actions reveal about your beliefs?
9. hi what area of your life have you been affected by the world's influence?

APPLY

10. What biblical command do you need to put into practice this week?

3. James 2:1-13

Showing favoritism is wrong because all people are important to God. Christians should try to see people through God's eyes instead of judging them according to the world's standards. The world honors people with money, prestige, and power, but God favors the poor and helpless. Only those who show mercy to others will receive God's mercy.

OPEN

1. In what subtle and obvious ways do people discriminate against the poor?

EXPLORE

2. What kind of behavior should be avoided in the church? (2:1-4)
3. Why should Christians beware of rich people? (2:6-7)
4. What law should govern the attitudes and actions of believers? (2:8)
5. According to what criterion does God judge people? (2:13)

GET IT

6. What evidence of favoritism do you see in the church?
7. How do we allow the rich to control our lives?
8. How can we learn to look past people's appearances and recognize their worth in God's eyes?
9. In what tangible ways can we show mercy to the poor?

APPLY

10. In light of this passage, how do you need to treat people differently this next week?

4. James 2:14-26

How can a person's faith be worthless? James explained that "faith that does nothing is dead." Like Abraham, who was made right with God by his willingness to sacrifice his son, our faith is made perfect by what we do. Good works prove that our faith is real.

OPEN

1. What do you think people find most appealing about Christians?

EXPLORE

2. How did James illustrate the correlation between faith and good works? (2:14-26)
3. How should a person's faith affect the way he or she treats other believers? (2:15-16)
4. How do Abraham and Rahab serve as an example for believers to follow? (2:21-25)
5. What simple conclusion summarizes James's teaching on faith and good works? (2:26)

GET IT

6. If we are saved by faith alone, why should we bother doing good works?
7. In what practical ways can we prove that our faith is real?
8. How has your faith in Jesus altered your lifestyle?
9. What evidence of real faith can others see in your life?

APPLY

10. What good works are you willing to do this week to demonstrate your faith in God?

5. James 3:1-12

Strong horses, large ships, raging forest fires, and wild animals—all of these things are easier to tame and control than the tongue. James describes the tongue as "wild and evil and full of deadly poison." But just as a horse can be restrained by a bit and a ship steered by a rudder, the Holy Spirit can help us control our tongues.

OPEN

1. When has what you have said gotten you into trouble?

EXPLORE

2. According to James, what would happen if people could control their tongues? (3:2)
3. What comparisons did James use to describe the tongue? (3:3-8)
4. How is the tongue like fire? (3:6)
5. What inconsistent behavior should never be seen in the lives of believers? (3:9-10)

GET IT

6. Why is it important for Christians to guard their tongues?
7. What are some ways we use our words for evil, instead of good?
8. What inconsistencies do you see in your speech?
9. How can we depend on the Holy Spirit to help us control what we say?

APPLY

10. In what specific ways can you use your tongue for good today?

6. James 3:13-18

There are two ways to live. You can follow the world's advice to "look out for number one" and become consumed by selfish ambition, envy, and all kinds of evil. Or you can follow God's wisdom, putting the needs of others before yourself and living a peaceful life.

OPEN

1. When has someone questioned or criticized your lifestyle choices?

EXPLORE

2. How does this passage contrast God's wisdom and the world's wisdom? (3:13-18)
3. How is a person's wisdom demonstrated? (3:13)
4. What kind of "wisdom" is from the devil? (3:14-15)
5. What attitudes and actions result from following God's wisdom? (3:17-18)

GET IT

6. Why does God's wisdom seem foolish to the world?
7. What are some of the consequences of selfish living?
8. What blessings have you enjoyed as a result of following godly wisdom?
9. In what area of your life do you need to embrace God's wisdom?

APPLY

10. When can you set aside some quiet time in the next week to meditate on God's wisdom?

7. James 4:1-12

We are engaged in a spiritual battle. Satan fights for our souls by tempting us to give in to our selfish desires and become friends with the world. God promises us the ultimate victory, if we resist the devil and submit all of our needs and desires to him. Every person chooses sides in this war. It is impossible to follow God and the world at the same time.

OPEN

1. Why are so many books based on wars, battles, or romances affected by spiritual warfare?

EXPLORE

2. What war is waging inside of people? (4:1-6)
3. What advice did James give on how to win this war? (4:7-10)
4. What attitudes and motivations are necessary for approaching God in prayer? (4:2-3, 8-10)
5. What can believers do to make the devil run from them? (4:7-8)

GET IT

6. Why is it important to acknowledge that we are engaged in a spiritual battle?
7. How does a person become "a friend of the world"?
8. What weapons can we use in spiritual warfare?
9. According to this passage, how can we draw near to God?

APPLY

10. How can you better equip yourself to resist Satan's temptations this week?

8. James 4:13-17

Planning for the future without acknowledging God is arrogant. Even the most perfectly thought out plans will fail if God does not approve of them. Our plans are insignificant in light of what God can do; he alone knows and controls the future. The best way to live is to humbly submit our plans to God.

OPEN

1. What do you see yourself doing ten years from now?

EXPLORE

2. What claims do some people make about the future? (4:13)
3. What is the potential danger in making plans? (4:15)
4. How can believers show their willingness to submit their plans to God?
5. What sinful attitude did James condemn? (4:16)

GET IT

6. Why do we tend to leave God out of our plans?
7. How can we root out the sin of pride from our lives?
8. What kind of plans are pleasing to God?
9. How can we acknowledge God's control and authority when we set goals for the future?

APPLY

10. Which of your goals or plans do you need to surrender to God? How?

9. James 5:1-6

Some rich people think that they can get away with treating others unfairly. They live in luxury and self-indulgence, while ignoring the needs of others. This passage warns rich oppressors that God sees their wickedness. Anyone who lives selfishly, hoards their wealth, or exploits innocent people will suffer judgment at the hand of God.

OPEN

1. How do you think you would change your lifestyle if you lived in a poor, starving nation?

EXPLORE

2. What future can some rich people expect? (5:1-3)
3. What will happen to earthly wealth? (5:2-3)
4. Who hears the cries of exploited people? (5:4)
5. What kind of lifestyle does God condemn? (5:1-5)

GET IT

6. How can a rich person please God?
7. How does wealth blind us to the needs of others?
8. How can we guard against the sins of self-indulgence and materialism?
9. What does your checkbook reveal about your life goals?

APPLY

10. What self-indulgent habits are you willing to give up this week?

10. James 5:7-12

When the road gets difficult, people sometimes forget their final destination. James reminds believers to remain focused on their goal—Jesus' return to earth. Just as a farmer works hard and waits for his crop to grow, we must persevere through hard times and patiently await Christ's return.

OPEN

1. When have you felt like giving up on trying to live the right way?

EXPLORE

2. What promise helps believers develop patience and perseverance? (5:8)
3. Who will be "judged guilty"? (5:9)
4. How should believers imitate the example of the prophets? (5:10-11)
5. How can people be happy in the midst of suffering? (5:10-11)

GET IT

6. What can divert our focus from our goal as Christians?
7. How can we learn to maintain a joyful attitude in difficult circumstances?
8. What makes it hard for you to patiently wait for Christ's return?
9. How can believers help one another develop patience and perseverance?

APPLY

10. How can you remind yourself this week of the imminent return of Jesus Christ?

11. James 5:13-20

James's final advice to his readers was to pray in all circumstances. God works through the prayers of his people to provide help, joy, healing, and forgiveness for sins. We should not feel intimidated to ask God for great things in our prayers. Instead we should regularly approach his throne with our prayers of faith.

OPEN

1. Why do many people view prayer as a last-resort solution to their problems?

EXPLORE

2. In what specific circumstances should people pray? (5:13-16)
3. What kind of prayer can make a sick person well? (5:15)
4. What responsibility do Christians have to each other? (5:14-20)
5. What encouragement can believers gain from the story of Elijah? (5:17-18)

GET IT

6. Who has spurred you on to greater faith in God? How?
7. Which of your prayer requests has God recently answered?
8. What has interfered with your prayer life lately?
9. Who is someone who can help you stay disciplined in your prayer life?

APPLY

10. What step of faith do you need to take in your prayer life this week?

Notes

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