

Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Weeks Three & Four

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Discussion Questions

June 26

Just for fun...

- What's your favorite color...
 - to wear?
 - of food to eat?
 - to decorate your home/room in your home in?

Think and share...

- What do you think are ways we unconsciously or consciously keep from being honest and transparent with one another?
- What benefits are there when women get real with one another with what they're going through?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through Psalm 119.

“Finding Joy in God’s Plan”

with Rachel Barsha

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Finding Joy in God’s Plan (6/26)”

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Three ~ June 26-July 2 ~ James Overview and Chapter One

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. The next five weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study in community:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964 or www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

~ This Week's Focus ~

*Persevering through trial and truly living out the Word of God is possible
when we are in relationship with Christ.*

Day One – Read James

Today, as we kick-off our James study, let's read and meditate on the entire book. It's only 5 chapters and can be read in one sitting. Take notes as you read. The remaining days of our study will break down each chapter and several verses for a closer look. But today is a straight read-through. Just like you would read through someone's letter – start to finish – we'll read through this letter from James. You wouldn't get a letter in the mail and read a few sentences from the middle, then jump to the beginning, then the end again – right? We want to engage in Scripture with the same approach. Let's understand this book as a whole before we dig deeper.

1. Who wrote this book of the Bible? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the author here:

2. To whom was it written? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the audience here:

3. Read through the book of James and as you read take notes on the following page. Highlight key verses, write comments in the margin of your Bible, make a note of any questions you might have along the way. Highlight concepts, specific names, places, or people groups mentioned as well. We'll dig in together in our next day of study. For now, let's just read and grasp the tone and vision of James' letter as a whole.

- My Notes through James -

- Chapter One -

- Chapter Four -

- Chapter Two -

- Chapter Five -

- Chapter Three -

- More Notes -

Day Two – Read James chapter one.

1. How many imperative - command to do [this] - statements can you find in chapter one?
_____ (Hint: there are at least 12)
2. Highlight/Underline each mention of “trial”, “temptation”, “testing”, and “perseverance” in this chapter.
3. Highlight each imperative in your Bible and write two of them here either word for word or by paraphrasing it:

Example:

- v. 2 *“Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds...” (word for word)*
- v. 2 *“When all kinds of trials come my way, I need to be joyful!” (paraphrase)*

4. Of these command statements, which ones are pointing to the inner life - how we think and engage with ourselves and God - and which ones are pointing to the outer life – how we think and engage toward others? Categorize them here:

<i>Toward Self / God</i>	<i>Toward Others</i>

Day Three – Read James 1:1-8

There are four men named James in the New Testament. Which one wrote this letter? It is widely accepted by biblical scholars to be the half-brother of Jesus, also called “James the Just.” James had rejected Jesus as Messiah (John 7:5) until after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7) when Jesus appeared to him. Then in Acts and Galatians we see James active as a key leader in the growing church at Jerusalem. In Galatians 2:9 Paul refers to James as one of the pillars of the church along with Peter and John. As you read through James keep this background in mind. James, once a skeptic, perhaps a bitter half-brother, confused and maybe estranged in his relationship to Jesus before His resurrection, is now enthusiastically writing to teach and encourage others. Consider the huge shift in James’ heart and mind that must have taken place. Now he has written, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a letter that has been read for over 2000 years by millions and millions of people. It influenced the thinking of the early church and still influences you and me today. Thank God for changed hearts! Thank God for James and his faithful ministry.

1. According to James 1:2-4, what should our response be when we encounter “trials of various kinds?” _____

Why? (Use the exact words from Scripture and then paraphrase them as well.)

2. Look up James 1:4 in several versions (ESV, NIV, KJV, etc.). Write this verse in your own words:

3. James 1:5 flows right from the final phrase “lacking in nothing” of verse 4. James keys in on something important that we are likely to lack. What is it? _____

4. How do we go about getting “wisdom?” Bullet point the approach to gaining wisdom – what to do and what not to do - in trial here:

5. What does this remind you about the nature and desire of God?

6. How will this impact the way you face trials today and in the future?

Day Four – Read James 1:9-18

1. Generally speaking, do “lowly” people think of themselves in an exalted way? What about “the rich?” Do the rich generally think of themselves with humility? Why or why not?

2. Considering James’ upbringing as the half-brother of Jesus, the son of a carpenter, do you think he was considered among the “lowly” or the “rich?” Explain:

3. What perspective has he gained in terms of the things that matter in life because of his upbringing and life experiences? (Consider his early rejection of Jesus, his conversion, and his current influence as a leader in the new church.)

4. Circle/Highlight/Underline the words “trial” and “test” in verse 12 and connect them with “trials” and “testing” in verses 1 and 2.

5. Where does temptation NOT originate? _____ (James 1:13)

6. Where DOES temptation originate? (James 1:14-15) _____ (two words)

7. Outline the progression of temptation as described in James 1:14-15

_____ away and _____ by own _____

Then _____ when it has

_____ gives birth to

_____ and when it is fully grown brings forth

_____.

For deeper study read Genesis 2:15-3:16 and see how the actions of Adam, Eve, and Cain match this progression of temptation.

8. We bring forth temptation unless we do what? (Consider all of James 1:2-12)

9. What does God bring forth? (James 1:16-18)

10. What will you pray for today based on what you’ve learned or been reminded of in James chapter one?

Day Five – Read James 1:19-27

1. It's been said that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. According to this passage, what is that reason?
|
2. What are we to do when we receive the Word of God, and how are we to receive it? (James 1:19-21)
|
3. What is happening when we are "hearers only" and not "doers of the Word?" (James 1:22-24)
|
4. Read carefully James 1:25-27 List and explain further what a "doer of the word" does and what will happen as a result of actually doing what one has heard:
|
5. James 1:26 give a very strong caution about our "religion" (what we say we believe) being totally worthless. What does James warn us about?
|
6. Also, since you've read the entire book of James, you know that this issue is going to come up again. What does James say later in this book about the tongue? Write a key verse here:
|
For deeper study: Do a word study on the word "tongue" in the Bible. Consider especially verses from Proverbs. Write a verse that will be an encouragement to you in this area of keeping your tongue under control.
7. How will this look in your life TODAY? In what way can you step it up in regards to not just hearing, but DOING God's Word in your life? Be specific and consider calling a friend to join you in this.
|

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Four ~ July 3-9 ~ James Chapter Two

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

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~ This Week's Focus ~

Unless you're actually living out your faith by doing what God has commanded, your faith is dead.

Day One – Read James chapter two

1. Take note of familiar words and phrases that appear in this and in chapter one. Mark them (connecting each together) in your Bible and note them here as well:

2. Summarize the theme of James 2:1-13 in one sentence:

3. How does James 2:1-13 reveal the character of God in general and how He has shown Himself to you in particular?

4. Summarize the theme of James 2:14-26 in one sentence:

5. How does James 2:14-26 reveal the character and expectations of God?

6. In what way(s) can you be intentional in applying the teachings you have read in this chapter to your life today?

|

Day Two – Read James 2:1-7

1. What command does James open with in 2:1? Write it here:
|
2. What problem in conduct is James addressing in 2:1-3?
|
3. What scenario does James describe in these verses to help the reader picture the problem? How might that apply to your life as a follower of Jesus today?
|
4. What point in verse 7 does James make to support his admonition? Read Acts 11:26 for background:
|
5. Consider James' nickname – "James the Just." How do you see this passage as a possible explanation for why he was so named?
|
6. What does this teach you not only about the heart of James, but about the heart of God and His will for the life of the true believer?
|

Day Three – Read James 2:8-13

1. Who is the audience of the book of James? _____
2. What is the "royal law?" Write it here:
|

3. Considering James' immediate Jewish audience (we're the extended audience as Gentiles) how familiar do you think they would have been with this "royal law?" Read Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:25-28 then explain:
|
4. What did Jesus say about who are His true disciples in John 8:31?
|
5. The concept of mercy is addressed specifically over 100 times in the Bible, and countless times by application. What does James say about mercy in 2:13?
|
6. What does God say about mercy through the prophet in Micah 6:8? Write the verse here:
|
7. Compare this with Jesus' words in Matthew 9:9-13 which is an encounter Jesus had with the rich leaders (Pharisees), a tax collector (considered to be an unworthy sinner), and those watching. What does this tell you about the heart of Jesus and by extension, where our hearts should be?
|

For further study, read Matthew 7:1-20 and compare the content and concepts Jesus taught with what James is teaching here.

Day Four – Read James 2:14-17

1. This passage is centered on three rhetorical questions. Write them here in your own words:
|
2. Describe a scenario when something like what James is describing in this hypothetical situation in 2:16 might actually take place today:
|

3. Is James saying that this kind of faith is the basis for salvation? Consider Titus 3:4-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 before writing your answer.

4. God's Word is clear: We **need to be saved** from our sins. We **can be saved** from our sins. How? Write the answers from each verse here:

Need to be saved - Romans 3:23

Can be saved - Romans 10:9

5. What is the evidence of someone who has been saved?

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 2:15

John 14:15

6. Are you sensing the balance of faith and works? Once someone is saved from their sins they are a follower of Christ – a Christian. It's not good deeds outweighing bad ones that leads to salvation, however, good deeds are the evidence of a saved life! Take a moment to illustrate this truth with words or by drawing it out. I'd love to read or see your thoughts on this. After you finish, why not send me a photo of your response? 562.755.4964 or Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

Day Five – Read James 2:18-26

1. James anticipates a response in 2:18-20 in the form of hypothetical statement that “someone” might give after reading the previous verses. What is this person’s basic argument?

For further study: Peter, who is also named as a “pillar” of the church like James, addresses this issue as well. Read 1 Peter 1:3-11.

2. What is James’ retort to this “someone” who is arguing that faith can be apart from works? (Hint: the final phrase of James 2:18) Complete the phrase here and highlight it in your Bible:

“I will _____ you my _____ by my _____.”

3. In 2:19 James goes on to affirm a central belief of the Jewish and Christian faith. In Jewish teaching, this affirmation is referred to as the “Shema.” Observant Jews recite this truth at least twice a day. Read and highlight in your Bible Deuteronomy 6:4 and write it here:

4. What is the demons’ response to this truth? _____ and _____
5. How does this statement about the demons affirm James’ key point (James 2:17)?

6. What is James’ question in verse 20?

7. How does James answer that question for the reader in verses 21-25?

8. How would you sum up the lesson from Abraham's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:8-19.

For further study on Abraham and this account, read Genesis chapter 22.

9. How would you sum up the lesson from Rahab's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:31.

For further study on Rahab and this account, read Joshua chapter 2.

As we conclude this week's study, my prayer is that we who consider ourselves true followers of Christ would grow in the depth of our faith and broaden the reach of our faith as it touches the lives of those around us.

The lesson from Abraham is clear: if we believe in God, we will do what He tells us to do.

The lesson from Rahab is also clear: if we believe in God, we will help His people, even at our own expense."

~ David Guzik

- Notes -

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and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Five

James chapter Three

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

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@LMCCWomen



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Subscribe and listen to any study, lesson, testimony, teaching:



YouTube.com/c/JenniferGRichmond



DwellingRichly.Podbean.com
iTunes- Dwelling Richly

Discussion Questions

July 10/11

Just for fun...

- What was your favorite t.v. show growing up?
- What t.v. character are you most like?

Think and share...

- What is the easiest thing about your faith to you?
- What is the hardest?
- James 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* Share a time when you feel God answered this prayer for you.
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapters 1 & 2

“Saved By Grace”

with Cathy Wells

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

“My First Talk with God”

with Monica Chavez

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Five ~ James Chapter Three

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~ This Week's Focus ~

The words you speak are a reflection of your heart. Get wise with your words and your life by spending time filling your mind with the wisdom of God.

Day One – Read James chapter three

Read James 3:1-18 use the facing page to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture.

1. As you read, make a list of the metaphors James uses to help us picture the power of the tongue. Or, why not draw a little picture of each one? Either way, it's interesting to note how agile James is with these word pictures, don't you think?

2. Make note of any phrases or concepts that James uses here in chapter three that are familiar from earlier in chapters one and two:

- Notes from James 3:1-18 -

Day Two – Read James 3:1-4

1. What warning does James open with in this passage? When he says “we,” to whom do you think he is referring? (James 3:1)
|
2. Have you ever been a teacher in any capacity? If so, do you relate to the warning and the sense of responsibility that is greater for teachers? Share your thoughts:
|
3. Have you or someone you have known ever experienced hardship because of the words of a teacher you respected that turned out to be poor guidance or worse, blatantly wrong? Share your thoughts:
|
4. What an amazing goal to “not stumble in what [one] says.” Read Proverbs 10:19-21. What does this say about our words and the potential for trouble to you?
|
5. When James says “he is a *perfect* man,” he’s not saying we must be perfect, no one is perfect but God. What is he saying then about someone who does not stumble (sin) in what he says?
|
6. Does this seem attainable to you? Why or why not?
|
7. In what way do these verses point you to your need for a Savior in Jesus Christ?
|

Day Three – Read James 3:5-8

1. James 3:5 refers to the tongue as a _____ yet it does what? _____ Have you seen this to be true in your own life?

Explain:

2. Comparing the power of the tongue to a wildfire hits close to home for those of us raised in Southern California. Fire season is a real threat and comes every year with terrible loss of property and life. In James 3:6 what do you think James means when he says “setting on fire the entire course of life” and “set on fire by hell?”

3. James 3:7-8 warns that no “human being” can tame the tongue. Yet this passage is a reminder of the mandate given to Adam at creation that man was given dominion over the animals. If man is given dominion (Genesis 1:26) over something as untamable as wild animals – and yet they can be tamed – who can be given dominion over our tongues – and therefore we have hope for its taming? Consider James 1:16-18 and 26.

4. Read Psalm 19:1-14 How can one give dominion of their tongue to Jesus? Where does it start? List truths you find in this Psalm that point you to the right way of thinking that it takes in order for you to tame your tongue – what you read about who God is, what God does, what His Word is like, etc.:

5. Write Psalm 19:14 here:

Make this your prayer today.

Day Four – Read James 3:9-12

1. Read James 3:9. Write ways in which you do the following:

Bless our Lord and Father

Curse people

Confess any tendency you have to “curse people who are made in the likeness of God,” and ask God to help you live more like Jesus in this.

2. What metaphors (word pictures) does James use to illustrate the absurdity of blessing and cursing coming from the same mouth?

3. Read Luke 6:43-49. This is a bold and hard truth that Jesus is teaching – especially verse 49. It goes in line with James’ teaching in chapter three. Summarize this passage with the key points we should be living out in our lives today:

Day Five – Read James 3:13-18

1. How are we to show that we are truly wise? (3:13)

2. What did Jesus say about meekness? Read Matthew 5:5

3. What qualities does James set up as the opposites of “meekness of wisdom?” (James 3:14)

4. Compare James’ point in 3:14-15 with his teaching back in 1:17-18.

From whom do all good things come? _____ (1:17-18)

How did God bring us forth? _____ (1:17-18)

When we act boastfully with bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, what are we being false toward? _____ (3:14)

Where does this type of behavior come from? _____ (1:15)

5. How will this teaching impact your behavior today and in the future?

6. What does James say is the root of the issue in a situation where the behaviors of the people are defined by “jealousy and selfish ambition?”

7. Review James 3:13-18. Think of your family, coworkers, church groups. Consider the qualities James has outlined in these verses – godly and ungodly. From these verses, list the characteristics of each here and keep this in mind as you seek to engage wisely in each area of your life:

Wisdom from Above

Earthly, Unspiritual, Demonic

8. Write James 3:18. How can you be a person who “makes peace” in your life today?

Why not take the time to memorize James 3:18 today?

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Six

James chapter Four

~ Encourage ~

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Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



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Discussion Questions

July 17/18

Just for fun...

- Share a memory of party you attended as a child or adult...A silly game? A fun theme? A great location?
- If you could invite any musician or performer to entertain at your birthday party, who would it be?

Think and share...

- [James 3:7-8](#) warns that no "human being" can tame the tongue. Do you agree? Why or why not? Consider backing up your answer with Scripture.
- What are some practical ways you've found helpful in curbing any tendency you have to let your tongue get the best of you...cussing, gossiping, sarcasm, belittling, etc.
- Read [Proverbs 15:1-2](#). Discuss how you have seen this to be true in your own life
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter three.

“What Prayer Can Do for You”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

- Recommended Reading -

Great non-fiction books by authors I love. Each one of these books has had a life changing impact on the way I think and how I view Scripture as well as how I live my life. These will help you in your understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as well as give you practical ways to improve your prayer life and gain understanding of your spiritual life in Christ:

- “Praying the Names of Jesus” and “Praying the Names of God” by Ann Spangler
- “The Helper” and “Adventures in Prayer” by Catherine Marshall
- “The Screwtape Letters” by C.S. Lewis
- “The Spirit of the Disciplines” by Dallas Willard
- “Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster
- “The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer

The following are amazing biographies that have inspired me and continue to inspire me. I can read and re-read these and always come away with new insights. Their stories will challenge the way you are living. You will never be the same:

- “The Hiding Place” by Corrie Ten Boom
- “God’s Smuggler” by Brother Andrew
- “7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness” by Eric Metaxas

Coffee Talk Summer Study

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~ This Week's Focus ~

As followers of Christ, our lives should be characterized by total complete surrender to the Father and total transformation of our will.

Day One – Read James chapter four

Read [James 4:1-17](#) Use the next page or your Bible study journal/notebook to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. All through his epistle, James has used questions to help us think and grasp the point. List the questions he uses in this chapter: (There are at least 6)

2. Because you prayed before beginning your reading, God has answered your prayer as you read. I am confident of this. It's a prayer that He will always answer with "Yes!" Now, based on what you read, write a few thoughts about what really captured your heart and mind from these verses:

- Notes from James 4:1-17 -

Day Two – Read James 4:1-3

Read [James 4:1-3](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. As you read these verses, list the actions/behaviors that James calls out:
|
2. Maybe you relate to one or more of the sins listed in verse one? I know I do. Go back to question #1 and mark which one or more of the above you have done in your life. Be honest. (Don't worry. No one will be judging you.) Which one(s) have you **not** done?
|
3. Read [Matthew 5:21-26](#). What does Jesus say about murder and hatred?
|

What point is He making about the state of our heart versus our actions?

4. Read [1 John 3:15](#). How do John's words echo Christ's from Matthew 5:21-26?
|

If you have hatred toward someone today, take a moment right now to pause with no excuses about their behavior or thoughts about how much they deserve it, and simply confess your hatred and ask God to search you and see if there is any offensive way in you ([Psalm 139:23-24](#)) and to give you a new heart – His heart toward that person ([Deut. 30:6](#))

5. There's that word "desire" again. James spoke of it directly in chapter one verses 14-15, alluded to our desires again in chapters two and three, and now he reminds us about our desires in verse two. What kind of desire is he speaking of in [4:2](#)?
|

What **should** we desire? Begin with the following passages and as time permits, do a word study on "desire/s" and make note of what God teaches about what we should be desiring.

[Psalm 37:4](#)

[Psalm 19:7-11](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:31](#)

6. According to James 4:2-3, why don't we have what we desire?

What do you think are examples of selfish motives in our prayer life? Consider any Scripture to back up your thoughts.

What do you think are examples of pure motives? What Scripture do you think supports your answer?

7. How should we pray then? Well, the disciples asked that question of Jesus, and Jesus answered. Read [Matthew 6:5-13](#) and [Matthew 6:33-34](#) then prayerfully consider how you are talking to God about what you want. Ask God to reveal any selfish motives you have. Ask Him to mature you in your prayer life and continue to make you more like Jesus who prayed, "not my will but Yours be done." ([Luke 22:42](#))

Day Three – Read James 4:4-6

Read [James 4:4-6](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. Ouch! What harsh word does James call the people? _____ Why?
(review 4:1-5)

2. Imagery of adultery was written throughout the Old Testament as God cultivated relationship with His chosen people. A simple word study will bring up scores of verses that relate to this. God wants an exclusive relationship with His people. What is the essential nature of an act of adultery?

How then does adultery relate to the follower of Christ and how she behaves?
Consider [2 Corinthians 11:2](#) and [Revelation 19:7-9](#)

3. Write James 4:4 in your own words. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

4. What happens when we make "friends with the world" (in the sinful/ungodly sense)?

5. Read [Exodus 20:5](#) (which is in a context that I'm sure you'll find familiar). Consider this verse now in light of James 4:5. Explain God's desire toward us and expectations of us as His faithful children in your own words. How serious does God take this?

6. What does James says that God gives more of? _____
7. To whom does God extend His grace? _____
8. Whom does God oppose? _____
9. How do you think James' focus on pride/humility relates to his earlier point about "friendship with the world/enmity toward God"?

10. Extra Credit: What Old Testament verse is James quoting in James 4:6?

As you conclude, prayerfully consider ways in which you are prone to get friendly with the world in a way that might be demonstrating pride in yourself and your ability to "handle" it. Ask God to reveal to you any areas in your life in which you need to be more humble and faithful to Him.

Day Four – Read James 4:1-12

Read [James 4:7-12](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. List the command verbs in James 4:7-12 (Hint: there are at least 10)

Go back and connect the command/promise combinations from these verses.
(You do this...God will do that...)
2. Feeling the presence of the Devil and his influences? What should you do? (4:7b)
3. Don't feel near to God? What should you do? (4:8)
4. Read [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) What does God say about temptation and overcoming it?

5. This world has at best a casual attitude toward sin and at worst a flat-out denial of sin. Even worse is the way most approach God – even those in the church. But the Bible is clear; as followers of Christ what is the expected response if we are to be in the presence of God? Read [Isaiah 6:1-7](#) which relates how one of the most righteous men who ever lived responded when he was in God’s presence.
|
6. What does James’ command in 4:9-10 tell us about how seriously does God take sin?
|
7. How would you describe behavior that is the opposite of James 4:10? Consider James 3:14-16 and 4:1-4
|
8. Read James 4:11-12. In what context and under what motives are we NOT to judge one another?
|
- Remember the context of James’ entire admonition can be found in James 3:1-4:10.*
9. This passage and similar ones in the Bible (Matt 7:1-3) have been used to insist that we should NEVER judge someone, implying a live-and-let-live attitude. Is this accurate to what God’s word actually says, though? Should we never judge and just be ok that everyone lives any way they want? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your response:
|

As you conclude today, prayerfully consider how accurately you are grasping the heart of God toward sin in your own life as well as how willing you are to live a life that helps others grasp the heart of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Day Five – Read James 4:13-17

Read James 4:13-17 after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. It’s only natural that we make plans for tomorrow, right? How should the mindset of a Christian be different than that of a worldly person be different in regards to how we plan?
|

2. In what way is James addressing another type of worldly thinking in these verses?
|
3. Read [Psalm 103:15-19](#) Write these verse in your own words:
|
4. Read [Proverbs 16:9](#) How does this proverb relate to James' admonition in 4:13-16?
|
5. What is the root sin James is addressing in this passage? _____
6. What is the cure for that sin as addressed in James 4:10? _____
7. So, how will that look then when you go to bed and think through your plans for the coming day?
|
8. Write James 4:17.
|
9. There are some "right things" based on Scripture that you know always to do, list several here:
|
10. There are some "right things that you know in your heart you need to do in that moment. For example, seeing someone hurting at work or school and feeling that prompting in your heart to talk to them. How can you, based on the verses we have read this past week, be better at not just knowing the right thing to do but in doing them without hesitation? Write your thoughts here along with any verses that have been particularly helpful, and consider sharing this with your small group when we meet together at our next study.
|

- Notes -

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Seven

James chapter Five

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Welcome!

We're glad you're here. Coffee Talk is the summer series for our Faith & Fellowship women's ministry at LMCC. Each week we meet and hear teaching from God's word as well as testimonies of women like you who have lived and moved through challenges and have found strength and hope in God and through His Word. We love to connect in person and online through social media.

Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



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Discussion Questions

July 24/25

Just for fun...

- What event in history would you like to have witnessed in person?
- If you could live in any time period, which would it be?

Think and share...

- In James 4:4 we read that making friends with the world is making an enemy with God. That can be a difficult truth from the Word of God. How do you apply this truth in your own life?
- How have you seen that God "opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble?" (James 4:8)
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter four.

“Lost in Christ, Forever Found”

with Rebekah Cañamar

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

-Notes-

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Six ~ James Chapter Five

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Join the online Bible study community, or study on your own. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

Lots of ways to join the study in community:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or
- www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond Subscribe to the YouTube channel

~ This Week's Focus ~

Wait for the Lord's return and wait well.

Day One – Read James chapter Five

Read [James 5:1-20](#) Use the next page or your Bible study journal/notebook to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. As you read this chapter, make note of any commands, warnings, and points of encouragement in this chapter. Note also to whom they are given.
2. Which of these (commands, warnings, encouragements, etc.) from your reading do you find personally applicable? Why?

~ Notes from James 5:1-20 ~

- Notes from James 5:1-20 -

Day Two – James 5:1-6

Read [James 5:1-6](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. How would you summarize James' warning to his readers in 5:1-6?
|
2. Compare this warning to [James 1:9-11](#) and [James 2:5-7](#). What similarities do you read? Differences?
|
3. James 5:3 is interesting in its boldness because of the properties of gold. What do you know about gold in particular that would make this a very strong statement about the uselessness of gaining worldly wealth while ignoring the poor?
|
4. What does God's Word elsewhere have to say about...
... "laying up treasure?" [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

...living for self? [Luke 12:19-21](#)

...treatment of laborers? [Leviticus 19:13](#)
|
5. Read Genesis 4:9-11 and James 5:4. What does this say to you about the nature, plans, and heart of God - the Lord of hosts?
|
6. James has a lot to say about the characteristic behaviors of a righteous person. Note each verse and what each says about how a righteous person behaves:
[James 1:20](#)

[James 2:23](#)

[James 3:18](#)
|

(continued)

[James 5:6](#) (Read [Matthew 5:38-42](#) for more understanding on not resisting.)

7. How does [James 1:27](#) relate to our passage today?
8. Share through a prayer, poem, or drawing the heart of today's passage as it relates to your life today, any changes in your behavior you need to make, any priorities you have:

Day Three – James 5:1-12

Read [James 5:7-12](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. James opens and now closes this letter with a focus on “steadfastness” and “patience.” Review James 1:1-12 with James 5:7-12. What key points about these qualities does James make?

1:3

1:12

5:7

5:8

5:10-11

2. What are the righteous to do and what will be their reward? James 5:7 and [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

3. What is the connection James is reminding us of when he speaks of the farmer and waiting? Read also [Deuteronomy 11:13-14](#).
4. How would you explain what James means when he says in 5:8 to “Establish your hearts...” Consider [1 Thessalonians 3:11-13](#) and [1 Peter 5:6-11](#)
5. James give his readers a sense of immediacy about the Lord, our Judge, returning soon. What does he warn against doing while we wait? What does he admonish us to be doing instead? James 5:9-11
6. What eternal truths about God’s character does James remind us of in 5:11? That God is _____ and _____
7. Write [Exodus 34:6](#) – _____
8. James wraps up this passage with an “above all” statement. What does he say we should NOT do? _____ Instead, we should...

How would you put this verse into use in your life TODAY?

Day Four – James 5:13-18

Read [James 5:13-18](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. What should we do in each of these circumstances? Answer according to James 5:13-18, but also include what you have read in previous chapters of James or elsewhere in Scripture. I’ve included some references for you to consider:

Suffering:

[Colossians 3:16](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-19](#)

(continued)

Cheerful:

[Romans 12:15-16](#)

[2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)

Sick:

[Psalm 107:19-21](#)

Do you need prayer today? Are you sick? Suffering? If you do, please reach out. You are in a community of believers who will come alongside you and pray with and for and over you. Don't ignore the prompting to reach out for prayer. You can call me at 562.755.4964

2. In order for a prayer to have great effect, what does James say about the person who prays it?

3. If you are not seeing "great effect" from your prayer life, what then could be the reason? _____ How could you change that? Read [Psalm chapter one](#) for details:

4. Who does James use as his example of "the prayer of a righteous person" having great effect? _____ Do you think God will work through you in the way He worked through Elijah? Why or why not?

5. Martin Luther said of prayer: *"I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."* and *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."* —Martin Luther
How's your prayer life today? Effective? Weak? Consistent? Sporadic? How would you like it to be?

Consider how you can surrender this part of your life to the Father. Ask Him today for a more powerful and effective prayer life.

Day Five – James 5:19-20

Read [James 5:19-20](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. Four times in James, he tells the reader “if anyone _____” Summarize each instance here:

James 1:23

James 1:26

James 3:2

James 5:19

2. In order to respond to any of these “if” situations, what must one be aware of?

3. This presupposes that we as followers of Christ are not only aware of our own heart issues but of one another’s as well. How can we be more aware of each today?

4. James 5:19 tells us to do what and to whom?

5. What are the two results of bringing someone back from wandering from the truth? Read also [1 Peter 4:7-11](#).

6. Consider what you would have to know or do in order to be effective and righteous in “bringing back a wanderer from truth.”

7. Considering this world's popular notion that "truth is relative" or "your truth is as good as mine", what does it say about "truth" that someone could wander from it?

8. What did Jesus say about truth? John 14:6 and John 8:31-35

Prayer, wandering from truth, sins and being spared from death...a lot of concepts in these few verses may leave you with more questions than answers or in need of more clarification. If you are wanting more, let's talk! You can reach me at Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com.

*You are loved
and prayed for.*

