

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:

Toward Self / God

Toward Others

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.

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 four weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study:

- 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 ~

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 -

*You are loved
and prayed for.*

