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A 7 DAY BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JAMES

FOR KIDS

BY VIVIAN BRICKER

THE BOOK OF JAMES

The Book of James is written by the Lord's half-brother, James. Although James would have doubted the Lord's divinity during Jesus' earthly ministry, He became a believer after Jesus' resurrection. James became a prominent leader in the Jerusalem Church and was one of the apostles Paul met when he traveled to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-19). Through the Book of James, we are taught many lessons and are posed with many thoughtful challenges.

Over the course of this seven-day Bible study, kids will learn more about the Book of James, what it means to them, and how to apply its teachings in their lives. This Bible study is geared toward children; however, people of all ages can still partake in this Bible study. It might even be a fun bonding experience for parents to do this Bible study with their children. After each lesson, there will be challenge questions and a guided prayer.



DAY ONE: ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM (JAMES 1:5-8)

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do" (James 1:5-8).

From James 1:5-8, we learn that we can ask God for wisdom. However, when we ask God for wisdom, we have to believe and not doubt. If we doubt, we will be as easily blown around as the waves in the ocean. Doubting God is not good, as James tells us, and we should not expect to receive anything from God if we are doubtful and unstable in our faith. This is why we need to have faith and trust in God.

Before we go to Him in prayer and ask for wisdom, we need to truly believe. Our faith needs to be genuine and steadfast. There is no room for doubts. Once we truly believe in God and His power, then we can ask Him for wisdom. All we have to do is to go to Him in prayer and ask. A believing heart will be revealed as genuine as gold.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Have you ever doubted God's power? If so, why did you doubt Him?**
- **Have you asked God for wisdom in the past? How did it turn out?**
- **How can you go to God today in prayer with a genuine heart of faith?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear God, I come before You today with a humble heart. Please give me wisdom. I struggle with wisdom at times, but I know You can bless me with wisdom. Help me to also never doubt You. I praise You. Amen."

DAY TWO: APPLYING THE BIBLE TO OUR LIVES (JAMES 1:22-25)

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do" (James 1:22-25).

Continuing on in the first chapter of James, we see the importance of applying the Bible into our lives. This can be hard, but it is something that we must do. Just as we look into the mirror, see our reflection, and remember what we look like, we need to read the Bible, study it, and apply its teachings into our lives. We do not need to only listen to the Bible—we need to do what it says.

We can apply the Bible into our lives by reading it, following Jesus' teachings, and obeying what it says. Whenever we are struggling in this area, we can ask for help from God and our parents. Between guidance from God and help from your parents, you will be able to learn how to apply the Bible passage into your life.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Have you only listened to the Bible in the past rather than doing what it says? If so, how can you change this?**
- **The teachings of the Bible will help us to live for God. Does this motivate you to apply the teachings of the Bible into your life? Why or why not?**
- **How will you apply the lessons of the Bible into your life this week?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear Jesus, please help me to actually do what the Bible says rather than only listening to it. I want to apply the Bible into my life and allow it to change me as a person. Help me to apply Your teachings into my life and help me to boldly live for You. Thank You, Lord. Amen."

DAY THREE: TURNING AWAY FROM FAVORITISM (JAMES 2:1-4)

"My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" (James 2:1-4).

From James 2, we see the important lesson of turning away from favoritism. Sadly, many of us have seen favoritism in our family, school, and friend groups. This is not right, as it goes against God's teachings. Showing favoritism will only hurt the people who are not favored. Rather than showing favoritism, we need to turn away from it.

As James 2:1-4 directs us, we need to treat all people equally. Whether they are rich or poor, popular or unpopular, or someone we know or someone we don't know, we are to treat them all the same. If we show favoritism toward someone, we will be discriminating against everyone else present and we have become evil judges with wicked thoughts. God doesn't want us to do this. Instead, He wants us to treat all people equally.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **In the past, have you been hurt by someone who was showing favoritism to someone else? How did this make you feel?**
- **Have you ever shown favoritism? How can you turn away from this sinful behavior?**
- **What are some ways you can treat all people equally?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear God, I come before You today with a humble heart. Please give me wisdom. I struggle with wisdom at times, but I know You can bless me with wisdom. Help me to also never doubt You. I praise You. Amen."

DAY FOUR: FAITH IS SHOWN THROUGH ACTION (JAMES 2:14-17)

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:14-17).

Many people think James 2:14-17 is preaching a "works-based" salvation, but this is not true. James is telling us here that our good deeds will be a natural outpouring of our faith in Jesus. From the moment we place faith in Jesus, we shouldn't want to continue in our sinful behaviors. Instead, we want to love, serve, and obey God. Part of doing this is by turning away from sin in our own life.

Our deeds will show our faith to the outside world. As James says, how can we truly be concerned about a person if we are not willing to help them? If our faith doesn't move us to action, then our faith is dead. In other words, if we have no outward signs of our faith, we might need to question whether we have truly placed faith in the Lord. Our changed actions and behaviors show a natural outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Do you feel your faith is genuine? Why or why not?**
- **How can you start living out your faith today through your actions?**
- **Good deeds will be shown through our actions and behavior toward others. Have you already noticed this in your Christian walk? If so, what were they?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear God, help me to apply my faith truly into my life. I don't feel like my actions are showing my love for You. Help me to live out James 2:14-17 and to start doing good things because of my love for You. If I haven't truly placed faith in You yet, I come before You today and ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You, Amen."

DAY FIVE: BEING CAREFUL WITH OUR WORDS (JAMES 3:9-12)

"With the tongue, we praise our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water" (James 3:9-12).

"Cool kids" at school might give the idea that saying mean things or saying bad words is "cool," but they are wrong. Our tongues are supposed to be used to build others up, not to tear them down. James tells us out of the same mouth that we praise God and curse those who have been made in His image. This should not be, yet it is happening every day. As believers, we can make a change in our own lives by being careful with our words.

We can do this by using our words for the glory of God. Instead of saying something mean or hurtful, we need to be kind, compassionate, and loving. Even when it is hard, we are called to do this. We should not curse or hurt others with our words. Doing these things is never okay because we are hurting someone who has been made in the image of God.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Have you used your tongue for evil? What was the result?**
- **Has anyone said mean things to you? How did that make you feel?**
- **How can you use your words to build others up instead of tearing them down?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear Jesus, I have used my tongue to hurt too many people. Please forgive me and help me stop doing this. I want to build others up and help them feel joyful. I've been hurt by people's words in the past, too, and I know what it feels like. Help me always to be kind and loving in my words. Amen."

DAY SIX: SUBMIT YOURSELF TO GOD

(JAMES 4:7-10)

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn, and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up" (James 4:7-10).

Submitting ourselves to God doesn't have to be difficult unless we allow it to be. When James tells us to submit ourselves to God, He is telling us to obey God and follow His teachings. We are to submit to God and resist the devil. By resisting the devil, the devil will flee from us. James also tells us to come close to God and He will come near to us.

We need to continually turn to God and draw our hearts closer to Him daily. We also need to purify our hearts and turn away from our sin. Through humbling ourselves before the Lord, He will lift us up. This can be challenging at times, yet we are not without hope. God will be with us every step of the way and equip us with everything we need. All we have to do is to draw close to Him, submit ourselves to Him, and humble ourselves before Him.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Have you submitted to God in the past? What was that like?**
- **How can you draw closer to God today?**
- **What would it look like to humble yourself before the Lord? Do you think you could do this today?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear God, please help me to submit myself to You each day. Purify my heart and help me to fully focus on You. Please forgive me for disobeying You in the past. I come to You today in full obedience, trust, and love. Amen."

DAY SEVEN: THE POWER OF PRAYER

(JAMES 5:13-16)

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (James 5:13-16).

The power of prayer is spoken of in James 5:13-16. Through this passage, we see the importance of praying for others. Prayer is often overlooked because people absentmindedly say, "I'll pray for you," when they have no intention of praying for the person. Rather than doing this, we need to truly soak in the power of prayer and be active in prayer each day.

In all circumstances, we can go to God in prayer. As James tells us, we can pray whether we are in trouble, happy, or sick. Our prayers offered in faith will bring joy, forgiveness, and healing to our hearts. We should also confess our sins to each other and pray for one another. Our prayers will be heard by God, and He will answer them in accordance with His will.

Challenge QUESTIONS

- **Do you actively pray each day? Why or why not?**
- **Do you recognize the power of prayer in your own life? If not, how can you change this?**
- **Who will you pray for today?**

PRAYER TIME!

"Dear Jesus, please help me to start being active in prayer each day. I see the power of prayer through James 5:13-16, and I want to experience this in my own life. I praise You that You hear my prayers, and You will answer them in accordance with Your will. Thank You for everything, Lord. Amen."

MEET THE AUTHOR

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Vivian Bricker loves Jesus, studying the Word of God, and helping others in their walk with Christ. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Christian Ministry with a deep academic emphasis in theology. Her favorite things to do are spending time with her family and friends, reading, and spending time outside. When she is not writing, she is embarking on other adventures.

