



BELIEVE IT.

James: A Bible Study

Whether you've read the Book of James 20 times or this is your first, be encouraged to look at it with fresh eyes and an open heart. **READ** and **MEDITATE** on James 1 & 2 this week using these study methods:

PRONOUNCE IT: Read a verse over and over emphasizing different words, then write down your thoughts.

PICTURE IT: Put yourself in the story, thinking through each person that is present. What do you see, feel, hear, taste, and smell?

PARAPHRASE IT: Read the passage over and over, think about what God is saying to you. Put it into your own words. Search your heart to see how the passage applies to you, and talk to God about it.

PROBE IT (using the S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S. acronymn):

- S - Is there a truth to believe?
- P - Is there a promise to claim?
- A - Is there an attitude to change?
- C - Is there a command to obey?
- E - Is there an example to follow?
- P - Is there prayer to pray?
- E - Is there an error to avoid?
- T - Is there a truth to believe?
- S - Is there something to praise God for?

PERSONALIZE IT & PRAY IT: Put your name in the place of pronouns or nouns used in the scripture. (Instead of "our Father" say "my Father." Instead of the word "us," use the word "me" or insert your name.) Then verbally pray the text back to God as an act of worship. Praise Him for the truths He is sharing with you.

■ DAY ONE

READ James 1 using the Bible study methods listed above.

MEMORIZE James 1:22.

■ DAY TWO

What does James say about troubles in 1:2-4? How is your faith being tested right now? James 1:12 says God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. What are you doing to patiently endure those trials and temptations? How are you helping others carry their burdens?

Are you honoring God or honoring yourself in your actions? Are your loyalties to God or to the world? James says in 1:6 that someone with divided loyalties is like a wave in the ocean crashing back and forth.

Are the waves of life striking like a tsunami and dragging you into a dangerous undertow? Maybe the waves aren't that formidable, but you feel you're being tossed about and pulled in all directions.

What do the waves represent in your life?

■ DAY THREE

READ James 2 using the Bible study methods. **MEMORIZE** James 2:17.

■ DAY FOUR

READ Matthew 9:13 and **CONSIDER** James 2:1-12.

What can be said of your of mercy? Do you reserve the places of honor only for those who benefit you? Have you taken time to think about your place in God's kingdom as someone the Bible describes as a rich person?

Do you live your position as a rich person like it is a burden or as an opportunity to shower others with God's love and mercy?

■ DAY FIVE

REFLECT on James 1 & 2.

Take time to look into the mirror and let the Spirit work in you.

THINK *about the intersecting circles (What I Say - What I Do). Where do your circles intersect? Is there more perfection/wholeness in your life, or are you pushing the circles further apart, creating a greater divide?*

*What **NEXT STEP** will you take to live out your faith?*

CONSIDER *growing the green through serving, sharing, and giving your time, talents, and treasure.*

**Everything you have is already God's!
Will you choose to take a step to honor Him with it?**