

BELIEVE IT.

James: A Bible Study

Whether you've read the Book of James 20 times or this is your first time, be encouraged to look at it with fresh eyes and an open heart.

READ and **MEDITATE** on James 3 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 who 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 may apply to you, and talk to God about it.

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

- 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 for which to praise God?*

PERSONALIZE IT & PRAY IT

PUT your name in the place of nouns/pronouns 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 pray the text back to God aloud as an act of worship. **PRAISE** Him for the truths He's sharing with you.

■ **1** James writes about a rudder and a boat. *When you think of something small changing the direction of something large, what other images come to mind?* He mentions how a tiny spark can start a great forest fire. *Can one simple lie destroy a family? Can one hate-filled word break a friendship? Why do you think the same mouth with which we praise God can turn to pierce the soul of another person?*

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. Luke 6:45 NLT

■ **2** In chapter 3, James continues to address the theme of division within our souls. He says if we can control our tongues, we'd be perfect. **SPEND** time in prayer allowing the Holy Spirit to search your heart and show you any evil which you may holding on to, as well as the steps you need to take to keep moving forward on your journey. Remember, perfection isn't about NOT making mistakes, but recognizing, repenting, and becoming the whole person who God created you to be. Let what you say and what you do live in harmony. That's where peace, joy, and the other fruit of the Spirit live. **READ** Galatians 5:22.

■ **3** Memorize James 3:17. *How does James describe God's wisdom? What does wisdom produce in our lives? According to this verse, what are some examples of God's wisdom in your life? Is there a lack of wisdom in your life?* **READ** James 3:18. *What's the reward promised when one lives a life of wisdom?* A harvest of righteousness has infinite value and God has called you to partake of it. *What's the next step you'll take to help you grow in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit?*

■ **4** *What are the next steps you need to take to live out your faith?* According to the graphic below, help the middle part grow through serving, sharing, and giving of your time, talents, and treasure. Everything you have is already God's! So take a step to honor Him with it.

Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

¹² *Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.*

¹³ *When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

Romans 12:11-13 NLT

Serve God's church and God's people!

Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 AB

Join in community with other believers and build each other up.

You weren't created to do it on your own!

Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Malachi 3:10 AB

Give generously!

