

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** *What desires are at war within you? Do you want to be a friend of the world or a friend of God? Can't we be friends with both?*

READ/MEDITATE:

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in). Matthew 6:24 AB

■ **2 READ** James 4:4 a few times using the **PRONOUNCE IT** method. *Why do you think James repeats this point? What are we called to do as an act of obedience?* **READ** James 4:7-10. Also take time and read Psalm 51. Re-read verses 16 and 17. *What does God desire of us? What step does this require you to take?*

■ **3** *Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God."* Acts 2:38-39 NLT

Two commands are given to believers: *To repent and be baptized.* *Have you repented (turned from the world)? Have you been baptized?* **SPLASH 2012** (JW's annual river baptism) will be held at **Riverview Park Sunday, July 29 @ 10:30 am**. Be baptized as an act of faith in obedience to God. Sign up at the Next Steps Center or call the church office.

■ **4** *What next steps do you need to take to live out your faith?*

According to the graphic below, grow the middle part through serving, sharing, and giving your time, talents and treasure. Everything you have is already God's! So make a choice and 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.

Give generously!

Malachi 3:10 AB