

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 5 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** How important to you is your wealth? How much trust do you have in **things**? If tomorrow you found yourself in abject poverty, would you lose all hope, faith, and love? Jesus says, *"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be."* Matthew 6:19-21 NLT

God's main concern is not our wealth, but where our heart is. Since it's all His anyway, take a step to live that way.

■ **2** For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy. James 5:10-11 NLT

Instead, be very glad--because these trials will make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:13 NLT

We know we'll experience trials and heartaches and face temptations. But as God stretches our faith, we learn to trust Him. God is faithful in His tenderness and mercy.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 NLT

Take heart. It WILL work out according to His purpose, His time, and for His glory... not ours.

■ **3** James closes his letter with a call to pray.

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you... James 5:13-14a NLT

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!" John 14:12-14 NLT

God will give us all we ask according to His good and perfect will. Pray unceasingly and trust God's timing and answer. Have you been speaking/listening to God in your daily walk? Have you prayed with your spouse? Your kids? Take the step to do so today.

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

Make a choice to honor God with all you've been given. *Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

Romans 12:11-13 NLT

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

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