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## *“Drawing From the Well”*

*“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3*

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*Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship*

### **OVERVIEW OF JAMES**

*“Knowledge is horizontal.  
Wisdom is vertical – it comes down from above.”  
Billy Graham*

#### **Lesson 2**

Pastor Chuck has entitled his commentary on the book of James, A Faith That Works. Truly, that title expresses James' intent as he gives us a practical picture of what the gospel is like when it is lived out faithfully. Christianity must not only be believed, it must be lived. James addresses many of the issues that we face today as he challenges believers to examine the quality of their lives in terms of attitudes and actions.

As you begin your study this week express to the Lord your desire to glean from this book all that He has for you. Make a commitment to respond to the challenge of James to practice what you learn. Don't forget to get your highlighter out and ready so you can share with your group!

May you: *“grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!”*  
*2 Peter 3:18*

#### **DAY ONE: Overview of James 1**

1. Prayerfully read **James 1**. You will see that James writes from a very practical viewpoint. He does not lace his letter with extra verbiage, but is direct and focused in expressing what he has to say. **Chapter 1** covers several topics, many of which are covered again in later chapters. Record one thing you learn about each of the following subjects from chapter 1.
  - a. **Temptations**
  - b. **Wisdom**
  - c. **Listening**
  - d. **Pure Religion**
2. The key verse of this book is considered to be **James 1:22**. Write it here and commit it to memory!
  - a. Why is this verse so essential to our Christian walk?
  - b. We are exhorted to *“be doers of the word, not hearers only.”* (**James 1:22**) What is the result of being a hearer only?

3. James' pattern is to introduce subjects by making statements or instructions. In the following chart list each subject with its verse, the instruction about that subject and the illustration or explanation James uses.

Vs	Subject	Instruction	Illustration or Explanation

4. James' last words to us in this chapter are to *keep* ourselves *unspotted* from the world. What steps can you take to avoid the world's contaminating influence?
5. **Chapter 1** is not only full of admonitions to practice what we believe, but it also contains many uplifting verses. Share something from this chapter that encourages you.

6. If you had to title James **chapter 1**, what would that title be?

**DAY TWO: Overview of James 2**

1. Prayerfully read **James 2**. In **chapter 2**, James continues to exhort his readers towards *pure religion*. In the following chart list each subject with its verse, the instruction about that subject and the illustration or explanation James uses.

Vs	Subject	Instruction	Illustration or Explanation

2. *Say* and *works* are key words in **chapter 2**. Mark them and record what you discover. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

3. Among other subjects, James devotes much time in this chapter to our relationship with others. Choose one example he covers that interests you from **chapter 2**.
  
4. What does this chapter state about *faith without works* from **verses 14-26**?
  
5. If you had to title James **chapter 2**, what would that title be?

**DAY THREE: Overview of James 3 & 4**

1. Prayerfully read **James 3**. In the following chart list each subject with its verse, the instruction about that subject and the illustration or explanation James uses.

Vs	Subject	Instruction	Illustration or Explanation

2. In **chapter 3** the repeated words are *tongue* and *wisdom* (*wise*). Briefly share what you learn about these words from **chapter 3**.

3. Why is the *tongue* such an important subject for Christians?
  - a. What effect does your awareness of the destructive power of the tongue have on you?
  
4. Contrast the traits of *wisdom not from above* (ungodly wisdom) with *wisdom from above* (godly wisdom) from **verses 13-18**.
  - a. What do you find that helps you respond with godly wisdom rather than ungodly wisdom?

5. Prayerfully read **James 4**. In the following chart list each subject with its verse, the instruction about that subject and the illustration or explanation James uses.

Vs	Subject	Instruction	Illustration or Explanation

6. What encouragement have you drawn from today's study?
7. What does this chapter say about planning for tomorrow in **verses 13-15**?
8. **Verse 17** sums up **chapter 4**. Write this verse in your own words.
  - a. How will knowing this verse affect the choices you make?

**DAY FOUR: Overview of James 5**

1. Prayerfully read **James 5**. In the following chart list each subject with its verse, the instruction about that subject and the illustration or explanation James uses.

Vs	Subject	Instruction	Illustration or Explanation

2. Even though there are **54 commands** in **108 verses**, James tempers what might be considered harshness with warm concern by frequently using phrases like *my brethren* and *beloved*. How do terms of endearment or knowing someone truly cares for you prepare your heart to receive instruction?
  
3. In **James 5:1-6**, James addresses the misuse of riches. Summarize his warnings.
  
4. In what ways have the scriptures on patience ministered to you today? (**James 5:7-11**)
  
5. As James draws near to the close of his letter, he deals with the tremendous power of prayer. What do **verses 13-18** teach us about prayer?

**DAY FIVE: Review**

1. It is important to keep in mind the reason why an author writes a book. In doing so it helps to understand the topics covered and the idea behind them. It enables us to better apply the heart of the text to our own lives. What would you say is James' purpose for writing this book?
  
2. How would you title the book of James?
  
3. James refers to the Lord Jesus Christ only three times in this book, yet his writing reflects the fact that he spent much time with Jesus. Observe the parallels of the verses in James to the teachings of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount by writing the main thought of the Scriptures in the following chart:

Verse	Main Thought	Verse	Main Thought
James 1:22		Matthew 7:24	
James 3:12		Matthew 7:16	

Verse	Main Thought	Verse	Main Thought
James 4:11-12		Matthew 7:1	
James 5:2		Matthew 6:19	
James 5:12		Matthew 5:34-37	

4. As you reflect on the richness of James, do you find the Holy Spirit speaking to you about a particular area of your life that you need to change? Take a moment and allow the Lord to shine His precious spotlight on your heart. Confess to Him that area of your life and express your desire and commitment to walk in obedience to His will for you.

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:  
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”  
Psalm 139:23-24*

5. What are a few of the joys you have discovered in the epistle of James?

*“I will delight myself in Your statutes;  
I will not forget Your word.  
Deal bountifully with Your servant,  
That I may live and keep Your word.  
Open my eyes, that I may see  
Wondrous things from Your law.”  
Psalm 119:16-18*