

# Lecture Notes: James 1

That we would be confident \_\_\_\_\_ and  
approach any book of the Bible with the intention of  
\_\_\_\_\_!

James 1:2-4

James 1:5-8

"In Judaism, to be without \_\_\_\_\_ is not a sign of faith, but a lack  
of \_\_\_\_\_." (Jonathan Sacks, *The Art of Asking Questions*.)<sup>1</sup>

\*\*Engaging our Heart and Soul: Journaling through the text

1. Write out the text itself
2. Journal your own thoughts back to the Lord
3. Reflect and listen
4. Respond

James 1:9-11

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<sup>1</sup> McLelland, Kristi. *Feasting on God's Word: Fresh Encounters with the Greatest Story Ever Told*. (2024; Eugene, OR).

James 1:12-18

\*\*Engaging Our Minds: Cross-References

Firstfruits

- Leviticus 23:10
- Exodus 34:22-26
- Romans 8:23
- Romans 11:16
- 1 Corinthians 15:20

THE POINT: The way we endure trials and find the Lord in the midst of them speaks of our redemption as first fruits—a promise to others that what we have is accessible to them.

James 1:19-25

James 1:26-27

Let's be people who look into the Word of God like a \_\_\_\_\_,

Who allow the Spirit of God to move in our lives as we \_\_\_\_\_ on what we read,

Who do not walk away unchanged but allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of God—and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God—to be completed in our lives.

# Lesson 2

## James 2

This week's homework will look very similar to Lesson 1 as we continue to build a framework we can use to approach any passage of Scripture.

One thing I want to remind you of today, as I also remind myself, is that if we wait to come to the Lord or His Word until all the circumstances are perfect and we feel ready and eager to read the Bible, we will rarely (if ever) come to Him at all. So today, wherever you are and whatever the circumstances of your life, take a moment to come to the Lord as you really are.

1. What is on your mind today? Maybe it's something that's distracting you or worrying you. Maybe it's something you're looking forward to. Maybe it's something you need to do today. Whatever it is, tell the Lord about it.
2. Now spend a moment intentionally turning your attention to Jesus, inviting Him to speak to you by His Spirit and through His Word during this time that you have set aside to seek Him.

### Mind

Read through James 2 slowly and intentionally.

3. What stands out to you about this passage?
4. What questions immediately come to mind as you read through the text?
5. Take some time to fill out the chart for James chapter 2 on page 17. If you need a reminder about how to fill it out, please refer to questions #4-6 of Lesson 1 (page 8).

One tool that we discussed in our lecture that can aid our understanding of the Bible is cross-references. These can be found either in the center column of your Bible, as footnotes in the text of your Bible, or online by using a resource like [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org).

6. Identify two or three verses in James 2 that left you wondering about what they mean or wanting additional information about them. Write the verse reference beside the bullet points below.

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7. Find cross-references for each of the verses you listed above and write the references beside the verses above. Where did you look to find those references?

8. Look up the cross references, and in the space below each bullet point, summarize anything you learned. (Keep in mind that sometimes these cross-references are helpful and shed great light on what we are reading, and sometimes they may only restate the verse in the same way or might not reference a point that we find helpful. If a reference isn't helpful to you, you can note that!)

## Heart and Soul

Today we'll practice the journaling through the Scriptures activity that we talked about in our time together.

9. First, identify a passage of Scripture (about 1-5 verses) that stood out to you.
  
10. In the space below and continued onto the next page, take some time to converse with the Lord about what He is saying to you in this passage. There are some questions and ideas below to get you started, but you don't have to answer each one. They're only meant as a tool. Keep in mind that you should address God directly as you journal.
  1. First, write out the passage of Scripture.
  
  2. Journal: Why does this passage stand out to you?
    - What does it bring to mind from your own life and circumstances?
  
    - What do you want to tell the Lord?
  
  3. Reflect: What do you sense Him speaking to you through His Word?
    - How is His Word a challenge, encouragement, or comfort to you in your present circumstances?
  
  4. Respond: What do you want to say to Him in response to anything you sense Him saying in this passage?

Space for Journaling:

Space for Journaling (cont'd):

## Strength

As we close our time in God's Word, we want to be intentional about the ways that we carry it into our actual lives.

11. What is one thing you sensed God saying through your journaling that you want to remember?
  
12. How did your time in God's Word today change the way that view the Lord? Did you learn something new about His character or His ways?
  
13. Is there someone in your life that you could share this truth with either to encourage them personally or to ask them to hold you accountable to living in light of what you have seen of God?





James 2

Section Title and Verses	Main Point (Summary)	Application (General)