

Lesson 5

James 5

The bulk of our lesson today will provide an opportunity for you to practice two new exercises that I hope will be valuable tools to carry forward as you continue to seek the Lord through His written Word. Before we get to those tools, take a moment to bring your heart before the Lord.

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.
3. Going forward, how might you incorporate this kind of practice into your own devotional life?

Mind

Read through James 5 slowly and intentionally.

4. What stands out to you about this passage?
5. What questions immediately come to mind as you read through the text?
6. Take some time to fill out the chart for James chapter 5 on page 36. If you need a reminder about how to fill it out, please refer to questions #4-6 of Lesson 1 (page 8).

This week, we talked about using word study tools to investigate the original and intended meaning of the text.

7. Looking back at your listening guide notes, what should be the goal of doing a word study?
8. Write out the name of the Lord from the end of James 5:4 from the version of the Bible you are using (and note which version it is):

Word studies can be done online at www.blueletterbible.org using the NASB or the KJV of the Bible. Here is James 5:4 from the NASB20²:

"Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, [and] which has been withheld by you, cries out [against you;] and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of armies."

9. Circle the word "armies" in the NASB version of verse 4. Does your Bible use a different word for armies? If so, what is it?
10. Complete the following steps to do a word study. I showed in the lecture how to use the Blue Letter Bible app on a mobile device or computer. If you don't have access to either, you could use a concordance, or you can skip this. (*This is a great tool if you have access to it, but if you don't, you can still read and understand the Bible!*)
 - Go to blueletterbible.org and look up James 5:4 in the NASB20 translation.
 - Click on the "Strong's" box in the upper right-hand corner. This should make numbers appear next to the words in the verses. What number is written after "redeemer" in Ruth 3:12? (This is its "Strong's" number.)

² The New American Standard Bible was revised in 2020. The common way to denote whether one is using the 1995 or 2020 edition is to mark it either NASB95 or NASB20.

- Click on the Strong's number. The link will take you to what looks like a dictionary entry. What is the transliteration of that Greek word? (The transliteration is the Greek word put into the English alphabet.)
 - Look below that. What are other ways that the same Greek word is translated in other places in the Bible?
 - Read the "Outline of Biblical Usage" and the "Strong's Definition." Take note of anything you learn:
11. *Remember the goal of a word study:* How does a better understanding of this word help you understand who God is in the context of His name here? What do you learn about who He is or what He is like?
12. When do you think this tool might be helpful?

Heart and Soul

In our lesson together this week, we talked about another tool, which gives us a method to meditate on the scriptures. Today, you have a chance to put that into practice. The next page includes a copy of the exercise to help walk you through the steps. If you missed the lecture, you might want to go back and listen to the portion about this exercise to help explain it.

Use James 5:13-16 as the scripture reference.

Scripture Meditation

1. Choose a passage of scripture (about 2-3 verses is usually best.) Take some time to carefully consider the words, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this verse. Listen to the verse once or read through it slowly.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

2. As you listen or read through the verse a second time, is there a word or phrase that stands out to you?

WORD OR PHRASE:

3. Ask Him for more amplification and insight. As you pray over this verse and wait on the Lord, does a picture, a memory, a feeling, an emotion, or some other impression come to you? Allow Him to lead this time and trust Him to bring clarity even if at first it doesn't make sense to you.

AMPLIFICATION
AND INSIGHT:

4. Is there some action the Lord is calling you to take or some situation to which this word applies? Is there something He is asking you to trust or believe? What is He inviting you to do or be in response to what He has shown?

INVITATION:

Strength

My hope is that during our time together this semester you have gained a greater understanding of the Book of James, but my hope is much deeper than that. I hope that through your study of James, you have come to know the Lord better. I pray you know a little more of what His presence looks like in your life. I pray you are quicker to recognize and respond to His working in your life. I pray your hunger to know Him has increased. I pray your passion for His Word is greater.

I believe that the Lord is worth knowing, that He is worth seeking. And while I believe that we are completely dependent upon His work in our lives to reveal Himself to us, I also believe we play a role in encountering Him by intentionally positioning our hearts to recognize and respond to Him.

The questions below are not intended to make a self-reliant legalists, but I do hope they will encourage us to be active, engaged disciples who desire to follow Jesus and who consistently seek to know Him more.

13. Going forward, what is one practice that you have learned this semester you'd like to make a regular part of your Bible study or devotional life?
14. What is your plan to continue to set aside time to read and reflect on God's Word throughout April and May?
15. How do you plan to remain engaged in a community where you are encouraged to seek the Lord and His ways this month?
16. What was your prayer life like when you started reading James? What is your prayer life like today? What do you want it to look like one month from now, and what is the next step to get there?

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