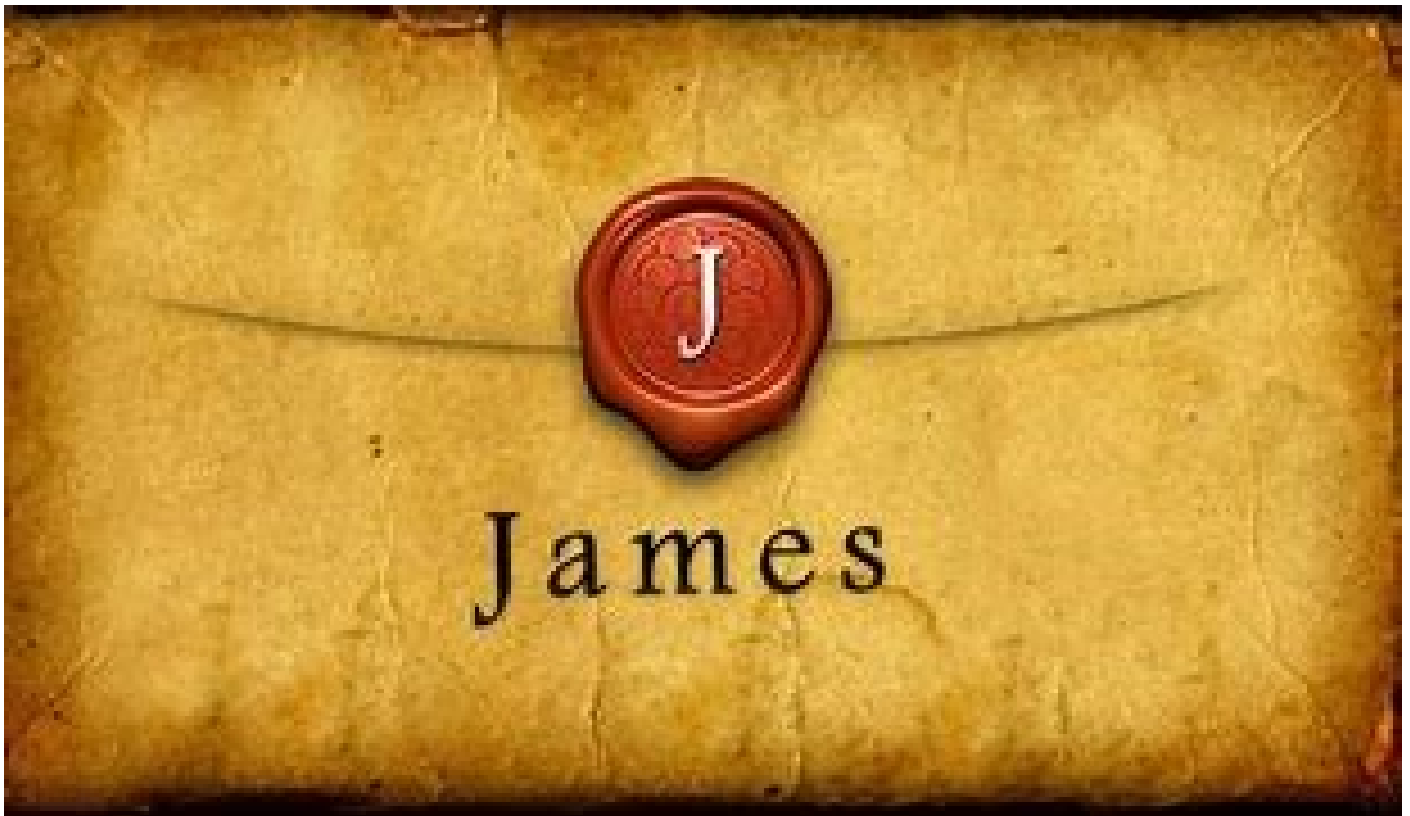


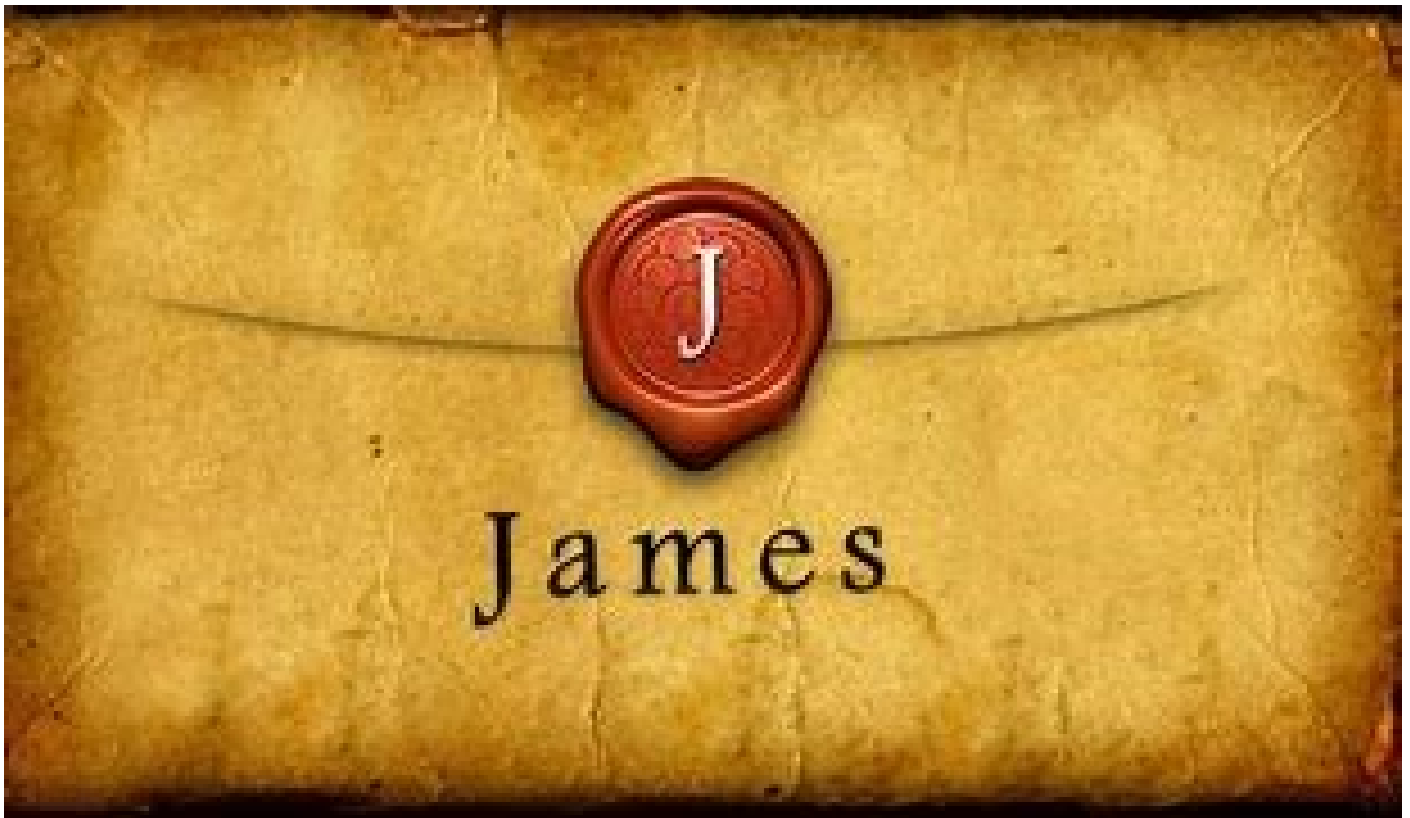
Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

[Biloela & Jambin]



growth groups booklet term 4 2022

1	A FINE WORK OF PERSEVERANCE	James 1:1-15	Oct 09
2	THE RIGHTEOUSNESS GOD DESIRES	James 1:16-27	Oct 16
3	LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR	James 2:1-13	Oct 23
4	GENUINE FAITH	James 2:14-26	Oct 30
5	THE WISDOM OF TAMING YOUR TONGUE	James 3:1-18	Nov 06
6	THE FOLLY OF DIVIDED LOYALTY	James 4:1-12	Nov 13
7	USING YOUR WEALTH FOR GOOD	James 4:13-5:6	Nov 20
8	TRUSTING IN GOD REGARDLESS	James 5:7-12	Nov 27
9	PRAY REGULARLY, SAVE OFTEN!	James 5:13-20	Dec 04



This term we turn our attention to the letter of James in the New Testament. James writes a very practical letter to brothers and sisters in Christ who are ‘scattered among the nations’. James writes to encourage them in their faith, and correct a number of errors that disciples of Jesus can sometimes fall foul of. James addresses both ways of thinking, as well as giving directions about the actions we should take as Christians, and what things we should avoid.

James writes in chapter 1:

“... ¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says...”
(James 1:16-22 NIV)

As we read through the letter of James this term, we too can take the opportunity to be encouraged in our faith and learn from all the practical advice James gives to disciples of Jesus. Not only this, we can also be encouraged to pray boldly for our fellow brothers and sisters in our church family as we seek to grow to maturity in Christ.

I’m looking forward to this term as we spend time together in God’s word, and I hope you are too!

Andrew.



...about this study booklet...

- the studies in this booklet link into the sermon series at church (the dates of the talks are listed on the front cover), with each study following the talk by the same title. This approach enables group time to be spent digging deeper into the Bible text and to discuss issues or questions raised by the talk. Importantly, it also enables your group to have a strong focus upon application, sharing, accountability and prayer. Our groups are not just about information but transformation.
- we aim to provide a copy of this study booklet to every regular attender at church whether you've been with us for only a few weeks or for many years. We would love everyone to be involved in one of our Growth Groups and do the studies in that context. You can read more about the groups and find out how to get involved in one in the coming weeks at church.
- If you are presently unable to be part of one of our Growth Groups we hope you will still be able to set aside time to work through the weekly studies. And we would also like to link you to a Growth Group as a point of contact in times of need. The group can also pray for you and look out for you. In a growing church having all our regular attenders in a Growth Group, or at least linked to one in this way, is a key way we can care for everyone involved.
- You will notice as you look through the opening pages that there is a lot more to this booklet than the studies alone. It is also a key way, each term, you can find out more about what is happening across our various church ministries. This helps us all not only stay informed but also able to pray meaningfully for the ministries and life of our church family. Some of the prayer points in each study will refer you back to the various ministry articles for that reason.

getting more out of your studies

- **READ** the relevant passage before the Sunday talk (and look through the investigate questions). Wrestling with God's Word for yourself before hearing the talk will help you to get much more out of it.
- **PREPARE** the study questions before your Growth Group meeting. You'll be in a better position to serve others in your group through thought out contributions. If everyone in the group prepares in this way, it will be easier to dig deeper, and to devote more time to application and prayer.
- **PRAY** for those teaching the Word; for those leading groups; for other members of your group; and for yourself—that your attitude will be focused on serving others, and growing in knowledge and love of Jesus our



kick off
this question just gets us talking about the broad subject of the study before we see what God's word says about it.



key verse
it's helpful to find one verse that sums up the whole passage we're looking at. Try memorising some of these verses through the term.



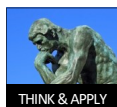
big idea
gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



investigate
draws out what the Bible text is actually saying. Stay looking at the Bible as you answer them, and refer to verses in your answer.



digging deeper
gives you the chance to chase up the big idea in other parts of the Bible, especially if your group prepares ahead and covers the main set passage faster.



think & apply
is where the rubber hits the road: applying it to our lives. Doing studies linked to the Sunday talks allows more time to be devoted to this vital step.



training
is an opportunity to re-inforce what we have learnt in the study through various practical exercises. Don't be afraid to have some fun and give it a go.



Prayer is a key part of how we respond to listening to God in his word together—by talking to him together. It's a key part of our ministry to each other.



church events reminds us that we're part of a church family, and that there are many other opportunities to meet together and spur one another on in following Jesus.



family discussion
provides a question for a family to discuss together—and an opportunity to share with our children what we are learning—ideal for Monday morning breakfast.



reading ahead
gives you a reminder of what's coming up next week. You'll serve your group well by preparing for the study. For study 1 read James chapter 1.

your growth group

your Growth Group is a place where you get to:

- connect significantly with a regular group of friends
- grow in Christian faith and love; and
- serve one another in word and action

... of course, the key ingredient in all that happening... is being there! But that's only the first step. A helpful small group member is one who:

- prepares the study beforehand;
- shares their answers as well as their life; and
- listens thoughtfully and actively to what others have to say

How about committing yourself to the other members of your group by being there each week and doing these three crucial things?

your leaders

your small group leaders are appointed each year by the Session. They are carefully chosen to lead Growth Groups, because first and foremost, they care about your progress as a growing follower of Jesus. We're also confident that they care about working hard at understanding and applying God's word to their own lives. They take part in Leaders Meetings throughout the year, previewing the studies, being equipped for their role, and giving feedback on how each group is travelling. Leaders will also seek pastoral input from our Session when they feel they need advice in how to best care for group members in particular situations. Please value and care for your leaders as they care for you!

Keep these words in mind from Hebrews 13:17...

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

We encourage everyone from Callide Valley to consider joining a Growth Group. If you would like to find out more please contact Andrew Purcell on 0439 510 500 or Ian Wilkie on 0407 156 543.

committee of management

The Committee of Management (CoM) is a ministry that consists of a team of dedicated members of the congregation who manage the daily operations of the Church. The primary function of the CoM is to manage, in a responsible manner, the financial and property aspects of the church. This includes preparing annual budgets and financial statements of the church and managing the ongoing maintenance of the church building and grounds including the Pelican Point campsite. Our new team for 2022 was elected at our Annual Congregational Meeting held in February 2022.

Our Committee for 2022 is..

Gavin Warmington (Secretary)

John Semgreen

Bruce Ninness

Greg Holzhauser

Karen Hutton

Graeme Brieze

Lyn Wilkie (Treasurer)

Andrew Purcell

The Committee really does need the support of the congregation throughout the year to perform its duties well. We believe that the congregation can really support one another by having a giving heart, with both time and money, to see us work to our potential.

We all have a role to play, we are a team and a family. Whether you are the Minister, member of the session, member of the management committee, music team, or congregation member, we all have a role that we can play.

Our church has an immense capacity, but it also needs the finances and willing workers to support it. Do you want to be part of that?

1

A Fine Work Of Perseverance



What are some of the tough things that people have to endure in life?



^{NIV} **James 1:12**... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.



Trials are designed to test your faith and nurture your ability to persevere, in order to go the distance as a Christian, and receive the Crown of Life.



READ JAMES 1:1-8

1. Who is James writing to, and what are James' "credentials"?

2. What does James say that our attitude to trials should be?

3. What is God's purpose in having us go through trials in life? What are some examples you can think of?

4. What does a lack of wisdom or knowledge have to do with what James is saying here? (Hint: what's the knowledge we're meant to know in v.3?)



5. What are we to do if we lack such knowledge - and what does God do if we ask him to help us?

6. What's the warning that James gives about believing God's purpose for the trials we endure in life?



READ JAMES 1:9-11

7. What is the distinction that James is making here about the rich and the poor and lowly?



8. How is such an attitude different to what the world believes?

Read 1Peter 1:3-9 and 2Peter 2:4-9.

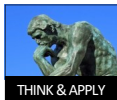
What does Peter say about the trials we face?



9. Is there anything you need to change in the way you treat people?

READ JAMES 1:12-15

10. What does James say about the person who 'perseveres' under trial? - What happens to them?



11. What does James say about the person who doesn't persevere, but rather 'gives in'? - What happens to them?

12. Read the account of Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Gen 39:1-23) - did Joseph persevere under trial or did he 'give in'? What was the end result for Joseph? (See Gen 41:41)

13. Is there anywhere in your life where God is calling you to persevere? What will be the outcome for you when you persevere under trial?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends

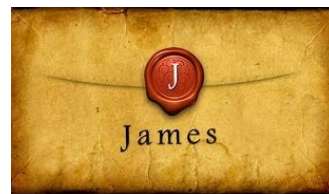


Sep 17-Oct 03	School Holidays	Oct 29	Men's Convention Rocky PC
Oct 09	Sunday School resumes	Nov 3-4	Presbytery Retreat
Oct 09	VIP-Net Youth resumes	Nov 10	Session Meeting
Oct 09	Growth Groups Resume	Nov 13	VIP-Net Semi-Formal
Oct 09	Lord's Supper	Nov 14	Widows Group 9.30am
Oct 10	Widows Group 9.30am	Nov 14-16	Standing Committees
Oct 11	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Nov 17	CoM Meeting
Oct 15	Session Planning for 2023	Nov 19	Youth Exchange
Oct 16	CAMEOH 9.45am	Dec 04	Biloela Carols
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How important is it for us to keep trusting in Jesus even when life is tough?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to continue to pray for each other and allow God to bring us to maturity in Christ Jesus.



NIV James 1:2-4
² **Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, especially those who are facing hardship in their lives.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for Term 4 at School

for VIP-Net Youth Semi-Formal on 13th of November.



for Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 1:16-27



What are some of the things you've learnt from God's word about how to live life?



^{NIV} **James 1:22** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.



The word of truth makes us children of God and enables us to carry out the righteous acts God desires.



READ JAMES 1:16-18

1. What does James tell us about the good things in life and how might this message be different to what the world tells us?

2. What do you think the reference to 'shifting shadows' is about?

3. What is important about the first part of a harvest—what does it tell us?

4. According to James how does God 'give birth' to us as his people?



5. What are some of the good and perfect gifts we have been given?? (c.f Jn 3:16; Ro 12:4-8)

6. When we use our gifts as God intended, what is the outcome?

READ JAMES 1:19-25



7. What is the reason we are meant to **be slow** to get angry (v.19)? What should we do instead?



8. What is it that DOES produce the righteousness that God desires?

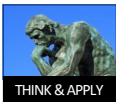
Read 1Peter 1:3-9 and 2Peter 2:4-9.

What does Peter say about the trials we face?



9. What significant thing are we told about God's word and what illustration does James use to make his point?

10. What do you have to do to be 'Blessed in All you do' according to James? How might this reflect the righteousness God desires?



READ JAMES 1:26-27

11. What happens if you go to church regularly, give regularly, but then slander lots of people and pass on gossip all the time?

12. What is the kind of worship that is acceptable to God?

13. What does Jesus tell us about the kind of Worship that God desires? (see John 4:21-24)



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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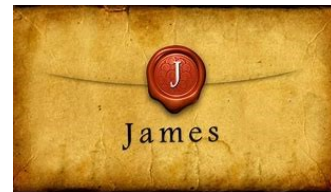


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Nov 17	CoM Meeting		



How important is it for us to keep living the way God wants us to live?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV James 1:19-20
¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to live according to God's desire for our lives.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for Missionaries Keith and Elspeth Campbell in PNG.

for VIP-Net Youth Semi-Formal on 13th of November.

For the PCQ.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 2:1-13



What are some of the things other people have done for you over the years that you've really appreciated?



^{NIV} **James 2:12-13** Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



We are to work really hard at loving our fellow mankind.



READ JAMES 2:1-4

1. What are believers warned against?

2. What are the distinguishing features of the two different kinds of people in the illustration?

3. Why do people often behave this way and why is it wrong for a Christian?

READ JAMES 2:5-7

4. What is it that God has chosen to do for his people?



5. What promise has God made to his people and how does it work?

6. What is it about God's choice and God's promise to us that demonstrates that discrimination is wrong?



7. What things are the wealthy people doing that show that they really aren't the ones we should be favouring?



READ JAMES 2:8-11

8. What assessment does James make about those who show favouritism?

Read Acts 10:30-48

What does Peter say about God's attitude to discrimination?

How might this have been a tough thing for Jews like Peter, James and Paul to face up to?



9. What significant thing are we told about God's law and what illustration does James use to make his point?



10. What are some ways you might discriminate against others without even thinking about it?

11. How might we remember not to discriminate against others?

READ JAMES 2:12-13

12. How are we to speak and act?

13. What guiding principle does James leave us with on the matter of discrimination, and how might this help us to love our neighbour?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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Nov 17	CoM Meeting		



What are some ways we can love our neighbour according to James?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV James 2:5
⁵ Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would be rich in our faith in Jesus and so inherit the kingdom he has promised to those who love him.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, not to show favouritism, but to treat others as God has treated us.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for our Elders and those who lead our ministries.

for VIP-Net Youth Semi-Formal on 13th of November.

For our Police Force and those in our Emergency Services.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 2:14-26



What (in your own words) is the definition of a 'Disciple'?



^{NIV} **James 2:26** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.



Faith in Jesus results in ACTION in your life.



READ JAMES 2:14-17

1. How does it make you feel when you see someone say they are a Christian, but their actions don't seem to match this conviction?

2. What is the serious question that James asks in v.14 and again in v.16?

3. What does James conclude in verse 17, and why should Christians take notice of this?

READ JAMES 2:18-19



4. What point is James making in these verses?

5. Why doesn't the demons' belief that there is One God save them?

READ JAMES 2:20-24

6. What does James point out about the effect of faith in Abraham's life?



7. What is the link here with righteousness?



8. Do you think as Christians we are called to live 'righteously'? (If so, how might we do this?)

Read Genesis 6:9-22

9. What do we learn about Noah - how is righteousness linked to what he does?

Read Romans 4:1-25

What does Paul say about faith in God and what he's done for us in Jesus?

Are Paul and James contradicting each other when it comes to faith and works, or are they teaching the same thing?



READ JAMES 2:25-26

10. How are Rahab's actions considered righteous?

11. What guiding principle does James leave us with on the matter of deeds, and how might this help us to continue to mature as disciples of Jesus?



12. What are some actions that your faith might be drawing you to do this week?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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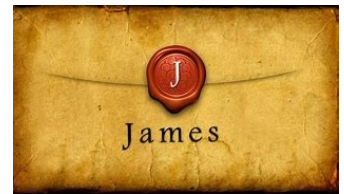


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What are some ways we can remember that our faith is evidenced by what we do?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV James 2:14
14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would strive to live righteously in God's sight, knowing that Jesus forgives us when we get it wrong.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for our Sunday School ministry and our Sunday School teachers

for the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and the work they do to bring the gospel to the remotest parts of our country.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 3:1-18



What's the worst thing you've said that's got you into a lot of trouble?



^{NIV} **James 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.



Keeping a tight guard over what you say will help you 'reap a harvest of righteousness' for God.



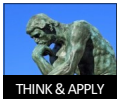
READ JAMES 3:1-6

1. What is the warning James gives here in v.1 and why?

2. What does James say about a ship's rudder and the 'bit' that goes in the horse's mouth?

3. How is a human tongue similar to these?

4. What are some of the bad aspects of what a tongue can do? From what you've seen - is James correct in his assessment?



READ JAMES 3:7-12

5. What does James say about the taming of animals?

6. What is the unusual contradiction that James draws to our attention and what is his conclusion about it (vv.9-10)?



7. Why are these things important to consider as brothers and sisters in Christ?



8. What do you think is the impact of cursing God's image (someone made in God's image and likeness)?

READ JAMES 3:13-18

9. What does James say about the 'preferred' life of a disciple of Jesus (v.13)? What is the link with wisdom here?

Read 1Samuel 25:1-44

How do Nabal's words get him into trouble?

How do Abigail's words demonstrate that she is a peacemaker?

How are the wisdom of Nabal and Abigail on display for us—what can we learn from them?



10. What is James' warning about envy and ambition? Why is it best not to speak about such things with our tongues?



11. If, instead of drawing upon earthly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom, we draw on wisdom from heaven—what will that look like in our lives?(v.17)

12. What do peacemakers do and what is the result?

13. How might we encourage each other to use our tongues to be peacemakers for Jesus?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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What are some ways we can speak kind words to each other? (Prov 16:24)

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous lives that God desires.



NIV James 3:17-18
¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would speak well of each other and say things that build one another up in our faith in Jesus.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

for the ministry of our Committee of Management.

That our Local Chaplaincy Committee will be able to fill a number of chaplaincy vacancies including our High School, Primary School, and District Schools.

for the Presbyterian Church in Emerald and particularly that Rod would be a faithful minister of God's word as he and the church reach out to the Emerald community with the gospel.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 4:1-12



Have you ever tried to have a job and study at the same time? What's the most difficult thing to manage?



^{NIV} **James 4:8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

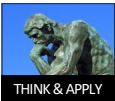


We are to rid ourselves of worldly ways and practices and submit our entire lives to God instead.



READ JAMES 4:1-3

1. What is James' reasoning for the fights and quarrels that his Christian brothers and sisters are having?
2. What possible solutions to their fights and quarrels are found in verses 1-3?
3. How relevant are these verses for us today? What are the kinds of things we have disagreements over?
4. What might stop us from asking God for the things we desire?



READ JAMES 4:4-6

5. Why does James refer to his readers as 'adulterous people'? (Is this a title we are worthy of—why or why not?)
6. What is James talking about in verses 5 and 6?



7. Why can't you be both friends with the world AND friends with God?



READ JAMES 4:7-12

8. What is James' solution to the divided loyalty of the human heart?
9. At what point will the evil one flee from you?

Read Matthew 6:24

What does Jesus tell us about divided loyalty?

Who is the better master?

Who should be our master if we are Christians?



10. What is the reason to 'grieve, mourn and wail'?



11. What reasons does James give for not slandering each other?(v.11)

12. What task has God given his son Jesus to do? (See Romans 2:16 and 2Timothy 4:1)

13. Who is able to 'save and destroy' and how does this happen?

14. How might we avoid making judgments about our brothers and sisters in Christ, and instead point them to Jesus?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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Nov 17	CoM Meeting		



What are some ways we can humble ourselves before God?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live in a way that brings honour and glory to God.



NIV James 4:7
⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—we deserve his undivided loyalty and attention.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, and not slander people or judge them.

Pray that we would ask God for the things we need, rather than seek to obtain our wants and desires by worldly means.

pray also

for our kids, youth and young adults.

for the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) and their work with Arab and Muslim peoples around the world.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 4:13-5:6



Have you ever decided not to give someone a helping hand and then later regretted your decision?



^{NIV} **James 4:17** If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.



Do good to your neighbour, not evil, always helping where you can. Use your wealth for good.



READ JAMES 4:13-17

1. There are plenty of people in business and trade who speak like this - why is it wrong for Christians? What are we to be mindful of?

2. With the alternate 'way of thinking' that James suggests what important thing are we remembering to consider?

3. Can we still be effective in business if we are Christians?

4. What is wrong with boasting about the future?



5. How do we 'KNOW' the good we ought to do'?

6. Why might it be sinful to hold back on doing good to others?



READ JAMES 5:1-6

7. Who is James addressing in these verses? (Are they brothers and sisters in Christ?)



8. Are we wealthy enough in Australia that this could refer to us? (ALSO - What are some of the eternal riches you have been blessed with?)

9. What are some things you've owned that have been affected by corrosion, moths, rust, mold or other pests?

Read Matthew 6:19-20

What does Jesus tell us about wealth?



10. What is the problem with 'hoarding wealth'? How might this stop you from doing the 'good you ought to do' (4:17)



11. Who is it that sees everything you do and will hold you to account? (v.4)

12. What happens to someone who 'fattens themselves' in the day of slaughter? (v.5)

13. In verse 6 James seems to ramp up his accusations a couple of notches - what is he talking about?

14. As disciples of Jesus - what does Jesus teach about the best way for us to use our wealth in this life? (See Matthew 6:19-20; Luke 12:33)



15. How have you been using your wealth? Are there any changes you might need to make?

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What are some ways we can use our money for good?

Pray that we'd be alert to the needs of others and would be generous with the things we have been blessed with.



NIV James 4:15
15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be alert to the good things we ought to be doing, and take the time to do them.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also

for our music ministry and all those in our church who serve the Lord in this way

for Inside/Out Chaplaincy (formerly CCC) as they continue to minister in word and in deed to prisoners across our state.

for the ministry of Nathan and Naomi Shannon in Gladstone



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 5:7-12

Trusting In God Regardless



When do people find it hardest to trust God?



^{NIV} **James 5:7-8** Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.



When we patiently trust God, we discover that he is full of compassion and mercy.

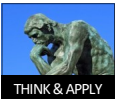


READ JAMES 5:7-9

1. How long does James say we should be patient for? (How is this possible!??)

2. What illustration does James use to demonstrate the kind of patience we need to have? (How would you describe this kind of patience and who is the farmer relying upon in this situation?)

3. In verse 8, what else are we to do as well as being patient? What might this look like in your life?



4. Have you ever been tempted to grumble when others were 'blessed' with the thing you had been 'patiently' waiting for? What is James' advice to you when that happens?

5. What is the number one thing God has blessed us with and who is able to take that from us? (see Romans 8:31-39)



6. What kind of things might help us to be patient until the Lord returns (v.7)?

READ JAMES 5:10-11



7. How does Job's life give us an example of patience and perseverance?

8. How do the prophets demonstrate patience in the face of suffering? What is it that they were doing (v.10)?

9. What does James reflect about the character of God at this point? Are there any other biblical examples that demonstrate this, or examples from your own life?

Read Job 42:1-17

What do we learn about Job that was different to his friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar?

After Job 'intercedes' for his friends with God, what happens to him, and how does this compare with the earlier part of his life?

How does this line up with what James tells us in James 5:11? (Is God compassionate and merciful?)

What has God done for us that shows his compassion and mercy?



READ JAMES 5:12

10. What is the purpose of swearing an oath?



11. What might people be seeking to do if they swear an oath by heaven or by earth, their grandmother's grave (or anything else?)

12. What does James tell us about such practices?

13. As disciples of Jesus, what have these verses taught us about trusting in God?



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What are some ways we can remember God's compassion and mercy for us in Jesus?

Pray that we'd be thankful for the things we have been blessed with, and patient as we wait for his return.



NIV James 5:11
11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be patient, and trust God in all things, remembering the example of Job, and that of Jesus.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also
 For our church leaders

for the ministries of L&C; Glen and Liz; Paul Smith; Libby Haswell; & Walter Jones.

for the work of the Bible League as they seek to provide bibles to persecuted Christians.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

James 5:13-20



What is difficult about talking to people about their sins?



^{NIV} **James 5:19-20** My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.



We are to pray in every situation and not let a fellow Christian fall into sin.



READ JAMES 5:13-15

1. Describe in your own words what prayer is...
2. In what situations does James remind us for the need to pray?
3. What things are we specifically told to do if one of our church family are sick?
4. What do you think James means when he says that the prayer is to be offered “in faith”?



5. What are we told about a person’s sins at the end of verse 15?

READ JAMES 5:16

6. What do you think is the link between confession of sins and healing?



7. How often do we confess our sins to each other, and should this be a practice we get more familiar with?



8. What does James tell us about the prayer of a righteous person?
9. How often should we be praying and what things should we be praying about?

Read Romans 12:9-15

What does Paul prescribe for followers of Jesus that is similar to James?

What things here encourage you as a disciple of Jesus?



READ JAMES 5:17-18

10. What example does James give of a righteous person faithfully praying to God?



11. What confidence do examples like this give us when we pray to God?

READ JAMES 5:19-20

12. What does James tell us about a person who turns a sinner from the error of their ways?

13. Whose footsteps might they be following in if they 'save them from death and cover a multitude of sins'?



14. Why is this a good way for James to finish off his letter to disciples of Jesus?

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What are some ways we can encourage each other as disciples of Jesus?

Pray that we'd be thankful for the things we have been blessed with, and that we'd trust God for the things we pray about.



NIV James 5:13
13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be patient, and trust God in all things, remembering the example of Elijah and the prayers he offered in faith to God.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also
 For the other churches in the Presbytery of Central QLD

For the preparations for our Combined Churches Carols Service

For the upcoming AFES Mission to Biloela and all the preparations for our Kid's Holiday Club.



for revision of this series re- read...

James 1-5!