

JAMES

A READING GUIDE

James is one of the most direct books in the Bible. Written by Jesus' own brother, it lands less like a theological document and more like a conversation with someone who knows you well and cares enough to be honest. A main theme of the letter is living an undivided life. James calls it being double-minded: knowing one thing, living another. Throughout the letter he looks at the specific places where that split shows up. Use this guide to frame what you're reading each week.

CH.	THEME	WEEKLY READING	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
1	 WHEN LIFE GETS HARD	James 1:1-27	James sees difficult times differently, and he assumes we'll all have them. Watch for the connection between trials, endurance, and becoming whole. Notice what he says about the gap between hearing and doing.
2	 WHEN YOU DEAL WITH PEOPLE	James 2:1-26	James is blunt: how you treat people differently reveals what you actually believe. Watch for the favoritism test. Who gets your best and who gets your leftovers? The second half unpacks how real faith shows the fruit of action.
3	 WHEN YOU SPEAK	James 3:1-18	The tongue is small and does massive damage. James uses three vivid images. Watch for what he says the tongue reveals about what's going on inside you. Do your words expose an integrity problem?
4	 WHEN YOU MAKE PLANS	James 4:1-17	You like to have control and make plans. Do you ask God for a plan or ask him to bless your plans? James points out how humility is key. Will you choose an open hand vs. a closed fist?
5	 WHEN THE FUTURE IS OUT OF YOUR HANDS	James 5:1-20	How does integrity hold when life gets hard and the future is unknown? James closes with patience and prayer. Watch for what he says about the connection between honesty in community and spiritual strength.

THE THREAD RUNNING THROUGH ALL FIVE CHAPTERS:
A DIVIDED LIFE WILL EVENTUALLY DIVIDE YOU.

James unpacks where the split is showing up and what it takes to become one whole person.

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CH.	THEME	REFLECTIONS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

OVERALL REFLECTIONS