

***faith
that
works***

A Study in James

AUGUST

**FEARLESS
FOLLOWER**

FAITH THAT WORKS

The book of James provides wisdom for several areas of life and our relationship with Jesus. James challenges us to practice our faith in tangible and active ways!

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE:

We've outlined the book of James to follow along with our weekly teachings. We've also selected passages that align thematically with James or are in reference to something the author notes. Follow along with these daily readings and our Bible Study Method to grow deeper in your understanding of God's word and your relationship with Jesus! ***This Guide works best with your STUDY BIBLE and a JOURNAL.***

FEARLESS WORD OF THE DAY:

This series guide follows our Fearless Word of the Day Bible Reading Plan. You can view the plan online and hear thoughts from our Fearless Leaders at fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

BIBLE STUDY METHOD:

As you read, keep this in mind:

Studying Scripture can feel like a daunting task. This is where a simple practice in going through a Bible passage can be tremendously helpful. The ultimate goal for interacting with Scripture is not only to read it, but to also to understand it and apply it. *It's not just about getting into God's Word, it's about God's Word getting into you.* Here is a simple method we recommend.

WHAT IT SAYS

After you have read the passage, pray for guidance and paraphrase it. As you think of different ways to put into words what you've read, the Holy Spirit will begin to guide you to a deeper understanding.

WHAT IT MEANS

Now dig deep and uncover the full meaning of the text. Go through the passage slowly and examine specific words (words you don't understand or intrigue you). Ask specific questions of the text (Why did Jesus say that? Who is the audience this was originally written to?) A Study Bible (Bible with commentary) or a study guide (like we are providing here) will help.

WHAT I'LL DO

This is probably the most important (though difficult) part of your study. Ask God to give you specific applications (i.e. something you are going to do today, a new thought you are going to focus on throughout the day, a prayer you are going to pray now and then before bedtime).

Learn more about studying the Bible: fearlessfollower.org/howtostudythebible

Download this as a PDF and use it with your smart device - go to fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday and upload the guide using adobe reader or another notetaking app on your device.

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 9



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (JULY 26) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 4: 13-14

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Many thinkers urged their audiences to remember that one cannot control one's future... The sin here is not their thinking ahead but their arrogant presumption - acting as if their lives are in their own hands rather than God's. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

TUESDAY (JULY 27) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Luke 12: 16-17

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

In the Roman Empire, people acquired wealth in especially two ways: landowners, with high social status, profited from crops raised by tenant farmers or slaves; merchants, by contrast, usually accumulated wealth without the corresponding social status. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

WEDNESDAY (JULY 28)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Luke 12: 18-19

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Wealthy landowners often lived in cities or on estates while impoverished tenant farmers worked their land. Excavations show that the landowners often built large silos to hold excess grain. Scripture warned against merely storing grain when others were hungry (Pr 11:26). - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (JULY 29)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Luke 12: 20-21

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Planning a whole year in advance was about as far ahead as most people ever managed in the ancient Mediterranean world...so any confident pronouncements about what the coming days or months would hold reflected arrogant boasting...The godly alternative is not to give up planning, but to leave room for the Lord's will to overturn ours. - From Pentacost to Patmos, Craig L. Blomberg

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (JULY 30)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Proverbs 27:1; Psalm 144:4

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

James (4:13-16) enlarges on the concept of boasting of tomorrow and Matthew (6:34) on the companion sin of worry. Both are rectified by an embracing of the present will of God. - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Proverbs

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

SATURDAY (JULY 31)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Acts 18: 20-21

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Both Jews and Gentiles often said, "If it is God's will..." Stoics and others often spoke in this way of "God," usually referring to Fate or the chief deity Zeus. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

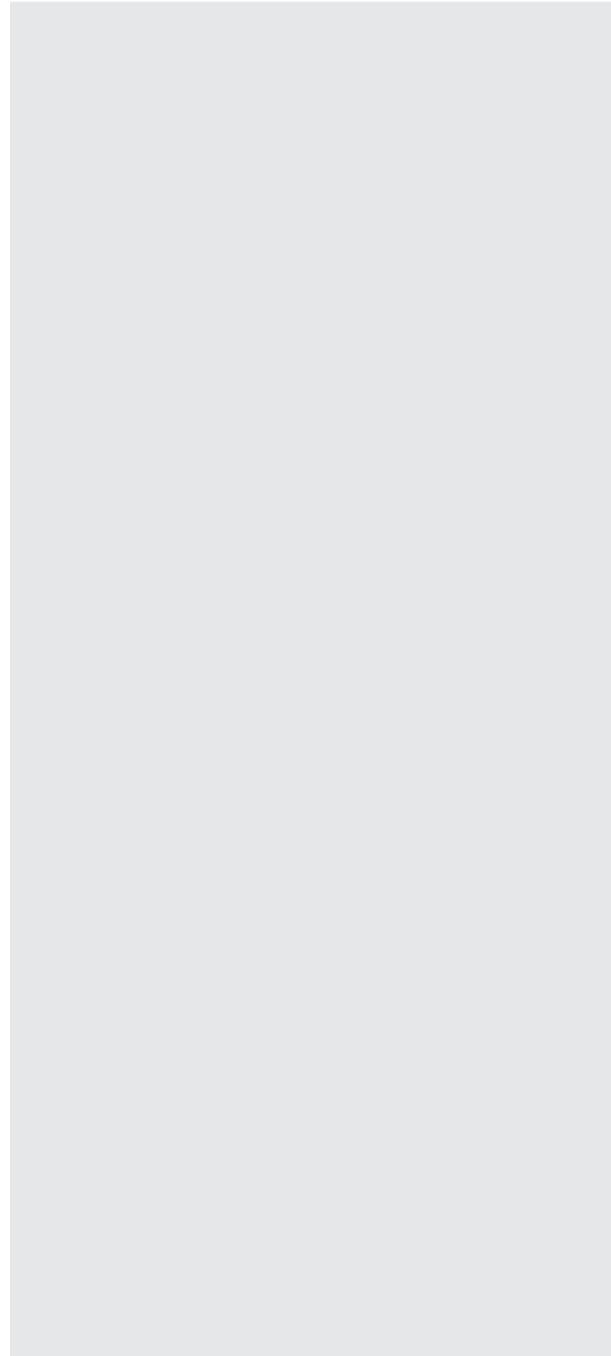
- 1.
- 2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Trusting God for Tomorrow -
August 1

Text: James 4:13-17

SERMON NOTES

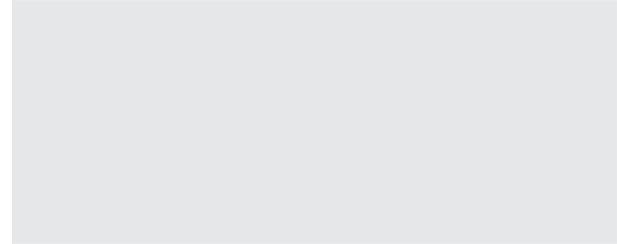


LOOKING BACK

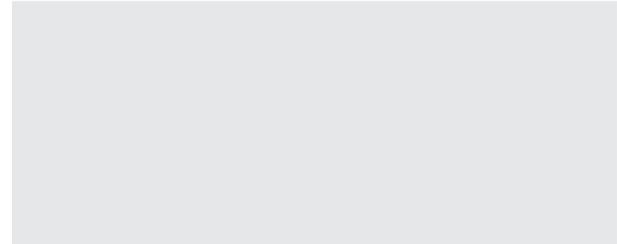
READ JAMES 4:13-17

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

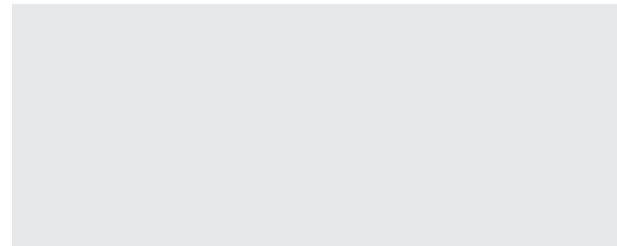
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 10



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (AUGUST 2) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 5: 1-2

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

James here denounces wealthy exploiters of peasant labor; he does so in a manner resembling Biblical prophets' warnings of judgment, also echoed in other early Jewish sources.- NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

TUESDAY (AUGUST 3) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Luke 12: 32-34

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

It is not necessarily for all followers of Jesus to get rid of all their possessions. Luke himself, in Acts, describes Christian communities in which most members live in their own houses with their own goods around them, and there is no suggestion that they are rebellious members of God's people. Jesus is returning to the sharing of inheritance with which the passage began, and is advocating the opposite attitude to the grasping and greed which he saw there.
- Luke for Everyone, N.T. Wright

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 4) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 5: 3-4

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

James condemns speech that incites human violence (1:19,26; 3:1-12; 4:11), but this does not mean remaining silent about injustice... Wealthy landowners often lived far away from the estates where their laborers worked... Day laborers - especially in demand during harvest - made subsistence wages; they depended on these daily wages to feed themselves and their families. If an employer withheld a worker's wages (in violation of Lev 19:13, Mal 3:5), the worker would cry out to God and God would avenge him. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

THURSDAY (AUGUST 5) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Matthew 19: 23-24

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Against some popular but mistaken notions that the "needle's eye" was the name of a gate in first-century Jerusalem, a needle's eye back then meant what it means today - a very tiny opening. It provided a graphic contrast for a camel. In Babylonia, where the largest animal was an elephant, Jewish teachers could speak of what was nearly impossible as "an elephant passing through the eye of a needle." In Judea and Galilee, the largest animal was a camel; getting it through a needle's eye provided an apt metaphor for what was virtually impossible. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

FRIDAY (AUGUST 6) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Deuteronomy 24: 14-15

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

In Israelite law, a creditor was to show mercy to (rather than receive profit from) an individual beset by unfortunate circumstances...The hired man depended on his daily wage to survive and to care for his family. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

- 2.

SATURDAY (AUGUST 7) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Amos 6: 4-7

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Here, Amos continues to denounce the wealthy ruling elite of Samaria...The eating of meat with any regularity was the privilege of the wealthy. The general population lived on wheat and barley and whatever fruits and vegetables were at hand...In contrast, Samaria's elite not only ate animals at random but put their calves in special stalls to fatten them, undoubtedly on grain wrested from the poor by cruel taxation. - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Joel & Amos

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.

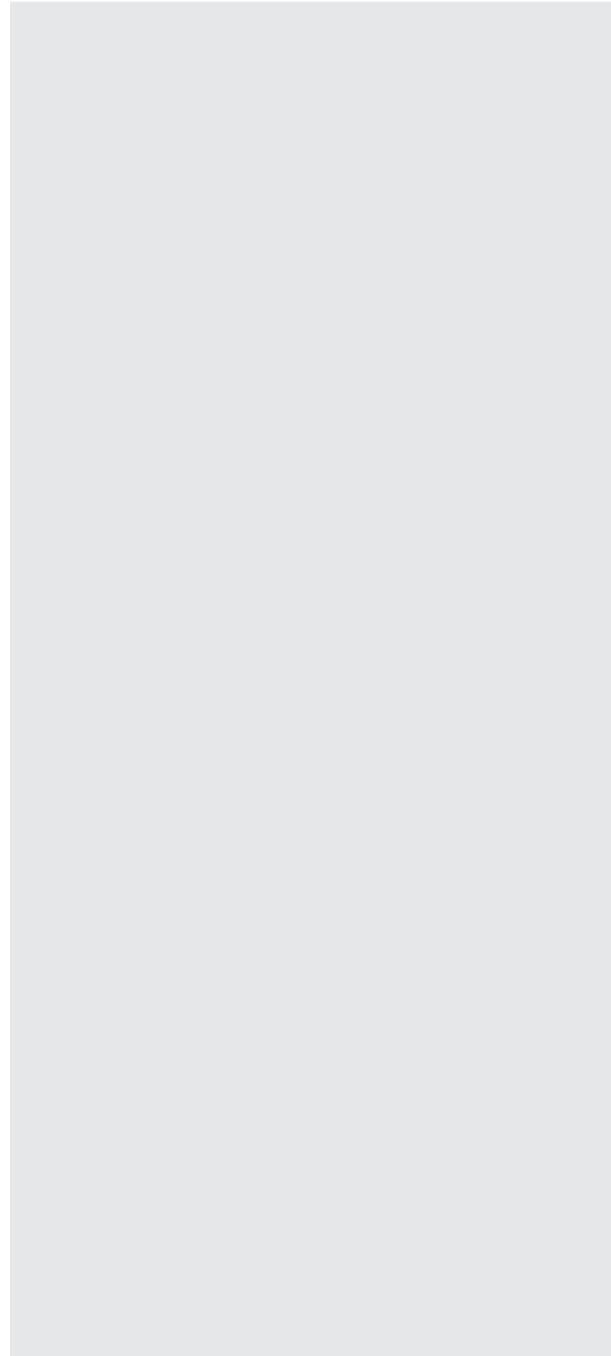
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TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Warning to Those Who are Rich -
Aug 8

Text: James 5:1-5

SERMON NOTES

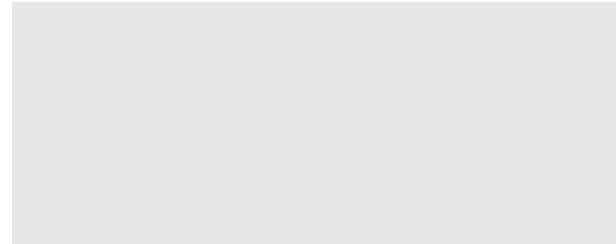


LOOKING BACK

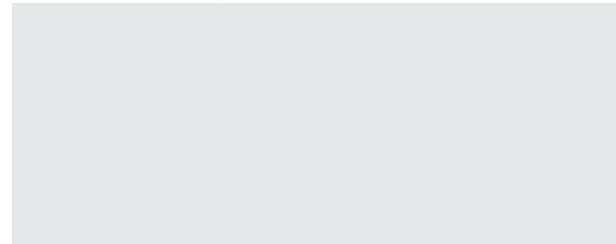
READ JAMES 5:1-5

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

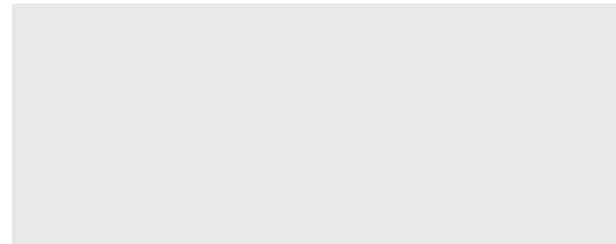
1. What stood out to you in your reading for this week and the teaching this weekend?



2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 11



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (AUGUST 9) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 5: 7-9

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Harvest here becomes an image of the day of judgment, as elsewhere in Jewish literature. The chief Judean wheat harvest ran from mid-April through the end of May. The crop was valuable; farmers' lives depended heavily on good harvests. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

TUESDAY (AUGUST 10) WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Ephesians 6: 13-15

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

"When the day of evil comes"- Although some scholars also see a hint here of the expected end-time tribulation, "day of evil" could be fairly general; it was a Jewish idiom for a period of trouble or judgment. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 11) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Ephesians 6: 16-17

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

“sword of the Spirit:” Soldiers carried several weapons, but Paul assigns to believers only one: the sword. After soldiers in the front line had hurled their lances, they needed their double-edged sword for close combat with the enemy. Whereas other elements of armor protect the believer, the word of God is here the one offensive weapon, the piece that allows believers to take back territory from the enemy.
- NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (AUGUST 12) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to Romans 5: 3-5

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Many Jewish people believed that the Spirit would be available only in the future time, or that only the most holy people could merit the Spirit in the present. Here the Spirit is a gift, revealing God’s love in the cross (verses 6-10).
- NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you’ve learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (AUGUST 13)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 5: 10-11

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

In Scripture, prophets sometimes faced persecution; by Jesus' day, Jewish tradition highlighted this point even more. Although later rabbis debated how faithful Job was, earlier Jewish traditions in the Diaspora praised and even amplified Job's endurance already depicted in Scripture. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

SATURDAY (AUGUST 14)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to Job 1: 20-22

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Gestures of extreme grief and mourning, comparable to the gesture undertaken by the friends in 2:12-13. Tearing the clothes and shaving the head to indicate grief are known from the Bible and were prevalent in the ancient Near East. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

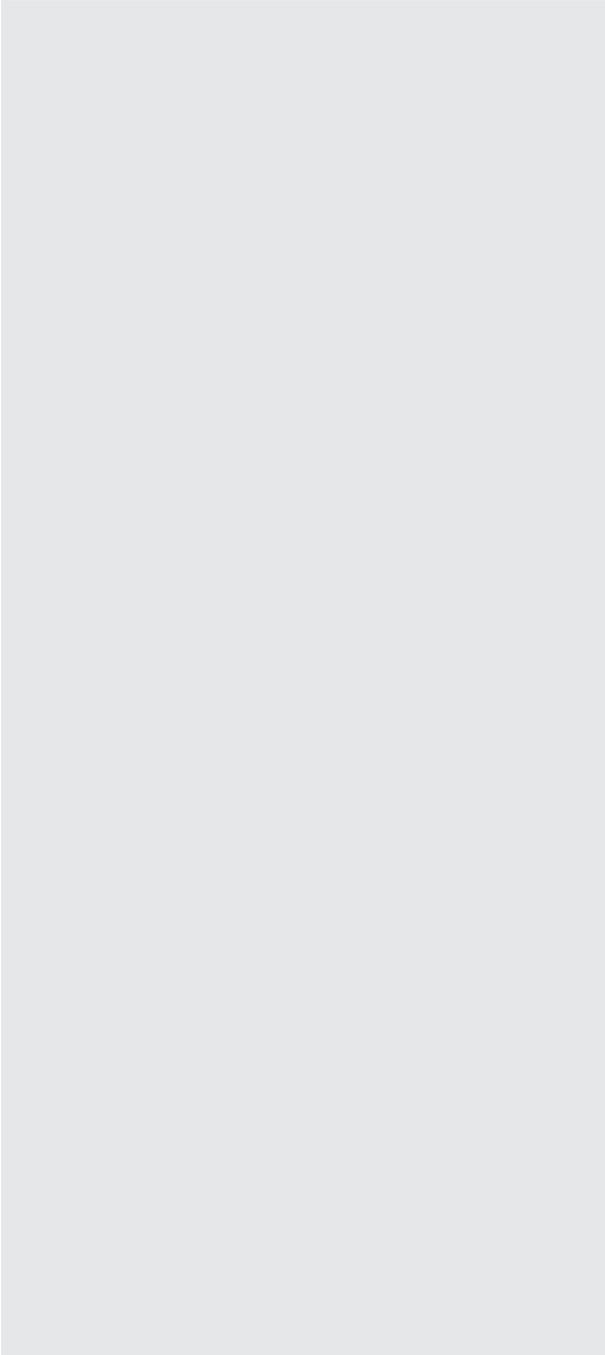
Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Patience in Suffering - August 15
Text: James 5:7-12

SERMON NOTES

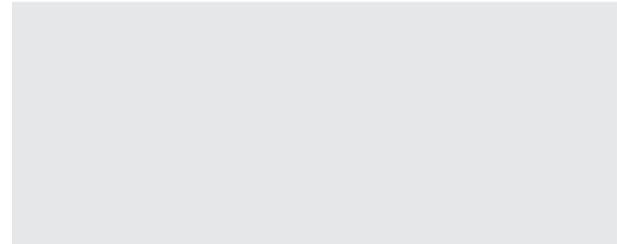


LOOKING BACK

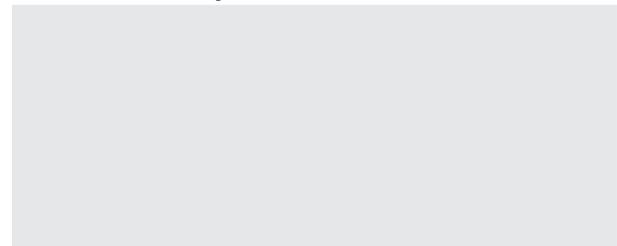
READ JAMES 5:7-12

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

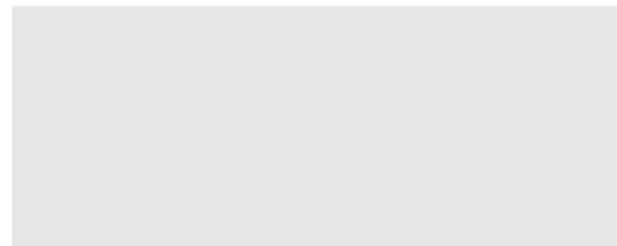
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2. What did you learn about the Book of James that was new to you?



3. How were you challenged to live differently this week?



Watch the message again under "Watch and Read" at fearlessfollower.org

FAITH THAT WORKS WEEK 12



Fearless Word Of The Day Schedule:
fearlessfollower.org/wordoftheday

MONDAY (AUGUST 16) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 5: 13-14

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Prayer must surround everything else that we do, whether sad or happy, suffering or cheerful. The Psalms are there, to this day, as the natural prayer book of Jesus' followers (vs 13), even though many Christians today seem to ignore them altogether. Anointing with oil is there, to this day, as a very simple yet profound and effective sign of God's longing to heal people. Like prayer itself, such an act is mysterious; yet, for those who take what James says seriously, it is full of meaning and power.

- The Early Christian Letters, N. T. Wright

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

TUESDAY (AUGUST 17) **WHAT IT SAYS**

Turn to James 5: 15-16

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Biblical prophets often used healing from sickness as an image for healing from sin (Isaiah 6:10), and Jewish literature often associated sin and sickness. Some later rabbis even associated specific afflictions with specific sin. Nevertheless, neither the OT nor James associates every person's sickness with their sin. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 18)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to John 9: 30-33

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

The man cites a general principle that God listens to the godly rather than to the ungodly (Ps 34:15; Pr 15:8, 29; 28:9)- NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

THURSDAY (AUGUST 19)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to James 5: 17-18

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Judeans and Galileans prayed for rain, but only exceptional holy men were thought able to secure it miraculously (and the legends about them securing rain were sometimes told centuries after they lived). These holy men modeled themselves after the prophet Elijah, whom James cites here as a model for all righteous people. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

- 1.
- 2.

FRIDAY (AUGUST 20)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to 1 Kings 17:1; 1 Kings 18: 41, 45

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Rainfall in the Holy Land typically occurs only when storms push their way across the Mediterranean Sea, usually accompanied by strong winds and dramatic clouds. These is no better location at which to experience these storms than the summit of Mount Carmel. The Canaanites attributed the power of such storms to Baal...Such descriptions of Baal highlight the fact that it was Yahweh who in the end possessed these qualities and broke the three-year drought. - NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

Write two action steps for today in the space below:

1.

2.

SATURDAY (AUGUST 21)

WHAT IT SAYS

Turn to 1 Peter 4: 7-8

In the space below write the passage in your own words:

WHAT IT MEANS

Here, Peter quotes Proverbs 10:12: "love covers over all wrongs." He doesn't mean, and Proverbs doesn't mean, that love is what we call a "cover-up" operation, hiding things we'd rather not face. Rather, the gift of love we are invited to offer one another minute by minute, day by day throughout our lives actually transforms situations, so that the "multitude of sins" which were there before are taken out of the equation. - The Early Christian Letters, N. T. Wright

In the space below write what you've learned about this passage and what it means.

WHAT I WILL DO

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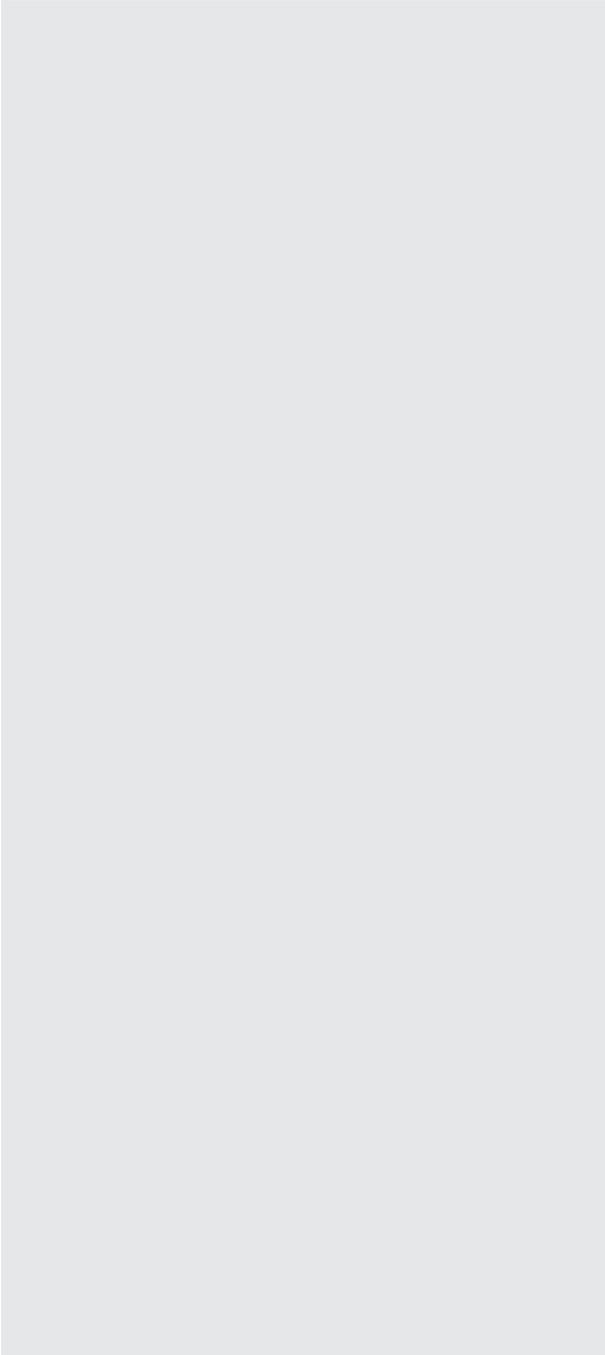
1.

2.

TEACHING GUIDE

Teaching: Healing Prayer - August 22
Text: James 5:13-19

SERMON NOTES

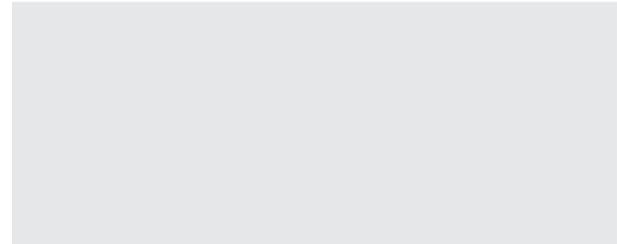


LOOKING BACK

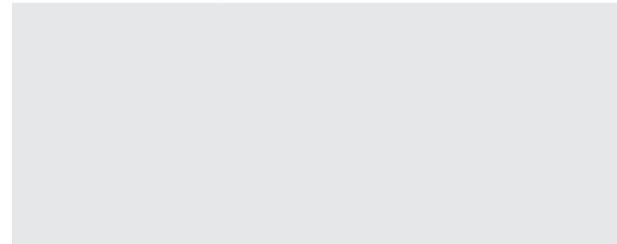
READ JAMES 5:13-19

REFLECT ON AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS BELOW

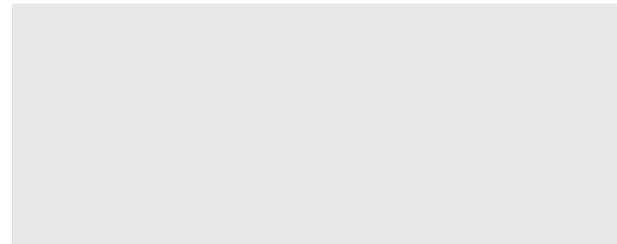
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