

PART 1

14 WEEK STUDY THROUGH JAMES & EPHESIANS

A disciplined study of God's Word is essential in the life of a believer, it is our hope that this study coupled with your new partnership will make that discipline easier to develop. We have put together a (6) week daily study through the book of James, and an (8) week study through Ephesians. We have included (3) simple questions to ask of yourself and the text, these are designed to take you deeper into the riches of God's Word. We would highly recommend memorization of passages in these studies as well, we would leave those up to your choice as different things will stand out to each of us. Take advantage of your new partnership, ask questions, hold accountable, and enjoy the amazing fellowship possible for (2) believers centered around God's Word. The (3) questions you will be given should be asked and answered each day concerning the passages for that day, this will be difficult at first but if you will stick to it, within a short week or two it will be a habit you can apply and carry with you for the rest of your life. I say this because there will be a desire to quit at first that if overcome will quickly be replaced with a hunger for this time each day, that as we said earlier is an essential aspect in the life of a believer. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The (3) questions should be asked and answered in each section in the space provided.

- 1.) What is the writer trying to say?
- 2.) What does the Bible say about this in other places?
- 3.) What does it say about me? (Or how can it be applied to my life?)

This study should take about 30 minutes or less each day, but I promise you will see change in a short period if you will be diligent and take it seriously.

Pay special attention to the third question as it is probably the most important one; avoid being hearers, but not doers.

See James 1:21ff. The Word does work if it's received—Jas. 1:21—literally to put out a welcome mat. On Sunday, the issue is not "What did that preacher say?" but "What are you going to do as a result of what he said?" See James 1:23-25. It's like looking in the mirror and seeing that your face needs to be washed and then doing nothing. Remember—the Bible was written *forus* (Rom 4:23-24; 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11).

Many statements in Scripture indicate that the Bible is given to us for more than satisfying our curiosity about what God is like, what He has done in the past, or what He will do in the future. Its intended impact on lives is seen in that the Bible convicts (Heb. 4:12-13), regenerates (2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Peter 1:23), nurtures (2:2), cleanses (Ps. 119:9; John 15:3; 17:17; Eph. 5:25-26), counsels and guides (Ps. 119:24, 105), prevents sin (v. 11), renews (vv. 50, 93, 107, 149, 154, 156), strengthens (v. 28), sustains (vv. 116, 175), gives wisdom (vv. 98, 130, 169), and delivers (v. 170).

The Scriptures are called a fire, to consume false teaching (Jer. 23:29); a hammer, to shatter people's hard hearts (v. 29); food, to sustain one's soul (Ps. 119:103; Jer. 15:16; 1 Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:2); a light, to guide our paths (Ps. 119:105); and a sword, for offense against Satan (Eph. 6:17; cf. Luke 4:4, 8, 12). In Psalm 119 the psalmist used many verbs to speak of his response to God's Word: *walk according to, keep, obey, follow, trust in, seek out, delight in, meditate on, consider, rejoice in, see, understand, hope in, teach, speak of, remember, not forget, not forsake, not depart from, not stray from, not turn from, believe in, consider, long for, love, stand in awe of, tremble at, sing of, and choose* (Zuck, BBI 280)

Be careful not to mis-apply the Word you will be receiving, work closely with your partner and your leaders to avoid this. Here are some dangers;

Four Substitutes for Application

- a). We substitute interpretation for application. We settle for knowledge rather than experience. To know and not to do is not to know at all. Knowledge that does not create responsibility is tragic [ILLUST: Kitty Genovese]. The classic illustration of interpretation without application were the scribes and the Pharisees. They knew where the Messiah was to be born, but when the report came, they did nothing to check it out! (Matt 2:1ff) Cf. James 4:17.
- b). We substitute superficial application for substantive life-change. Here, we apply biblical truth to areas where we're already applying it, not to new areas where we're not applying it. Result: No noticeable change in our lives. ILLUST: Businessman who applies Eph. 4:25 on honesty to his wife and children and co-workers, but not to his competitors.
- c). We substitute rationalization for application. When truth gets too close, an alarm goes off, and we start to defend ourselves. "That's the way it is in the real world"—and then feels totally comfortable about it. Man who ripped off \$500 in taxes from the government; gave to missions. When truth gets too convicting, you have 16 reasons why it applies to everyone but you.
- d). We substitute an emotional experience for a volitional decision. Nothing wrong with emotion—but that dare not be our only response.

Two examples of this mis-application are as follows

- 1.) A Christian in military service read his Bible one morning to get his "verse for the day." Later he turned up A.W.O.L. When he had been located and dealt with in due military fashion, one of his buddies asked what had possessed him to pull such a thing. He replied, "I read the Word to get some guidance for the day. The verse I read said, 'Arise, get you out from this land.' So I took that as God speaking to me, and I got out of this place!" In this case, he read Genesis 31:13, a verse which in its context was intended to apply specifically to the case of Jacob, not necessarily to another person.
- 2.) A girl at a Bible College miserably flunked an exam. The professor called her in and asked why. She said, "I read the verse that says the Spirit will give you in that day what you shall say, and so I did not feel I needed to study." She had misapplied verses such as Matthew 10:19-20 and Mark 13:11.

A final danger is that people sometimes use the Bible as though it were a book of magic:

. . . People use the Bible to find out the will of God by turning to it at random when a problem arises and seeking the answer to their difficulties in the first section that they read. Sometimes they even let the Bible fall open "at will" and then blindly put their finger on a verse and, having read it, force it into a plausible meaning for their particular difficulty.

Most Christians are like poor photographs— overexposed and underdeveloped. Spiritual growth is a commitment to change, and yet the human heart resists nothing as strongly as it resists change. Our hope is this study will help to avoid these common dangers and open the door to the richness of all that God has promised His children, who do His will.

Matthew 7:21

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

ENJOY!!

JAMES WEEK ONE

Day one: Read chapters 1 and 2 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 1: 2-18 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 1:2-8 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 1:9-12 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 1:13-18 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 1: 2-18 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

JAMES

WEEK TWO

Day one: Re-read chapters 1 and 2 just to get a broad picture of the authors train of thought.

Day two: Read 1: 19-27 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 1:19-21 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 1:22-25 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 1:26-27 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 1: 19-27 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

JAMES

WEEK THREE

Day one: Read chapters 2 and 3 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 2: 1-13 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 2: 1-7 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 2: 8-11 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 2: 12-13 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 2:1-13 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

JAMES

WEEK FOUR

Day one: Re-read chapters 2 and 3 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 2: 14-26 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 2: 14-17 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 2: 18-20 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 2: 21-26 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 2: 14-26 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

JAMES WEEK FIVE

Day one: Read chapters 3 and 4 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 3:1 - 4:12 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 3: 1-12 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 3: 13-18 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 4: 1-12 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 3:1 – 4:12 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

JAMES

WEEK SIX

Day one: Read chapters 4 and 5 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 4: 13-17 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 5: 1-6 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 5: 7-12 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 5: 13-18 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 1: 19-20 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK ONE

Day one: Read chapters 1 and 2 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 1: 1-23 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 1:1-2 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 1:3-14 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 1:15-23 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 1: 3-11 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK TWO

Day one: Read chapters 2 and 3 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 2: 1-10 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 2: 1-3 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 2: 4-10 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 2: 1-10 and think about your salvation.

1. _____

Day six: Read Romans 3: 21-26 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK THREE

Day one: Re-read chapters 2 and 3 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 2: 11-22 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 2: 11-15 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 2: 16-18 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 2: 19-22 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 2: 11-22 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK ONE

Day one: Read chapters 1 and 2 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 1: 1-23 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 1:1-2 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 1:3-14 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 1:15-23 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 1: 3-11 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK FOUR

Day one: Read chapters 3 and 4 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 3: 1-21 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 3: 1-7 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 3: 8-13 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 3: 14-21 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 3: 1-21 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK FIVE

Day one: Read chapters 4 and 5 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 4: 1-16 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 4: 1-6 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 4: 7-10 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 4: 11-16 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 4: 1-16 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK SIX

Day one: Read chapters 4 and 5 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 4: 17-24 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 4: 25-32 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 5: 1-2 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 5: 3-20 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read Romans 6:18 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS
WEEK SEVEN

Day one: Read chapters 5 and 6 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 5:21 – 6:9 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 5: 21-33 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 5: 1-4 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 6: 5-9 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 6: 1-3 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

EPHESIANS

WEEK EIGHT

Day one: Re-read chapters 5 and 6 just to get a broad picture of the author's train of thought.

Day two: Read 6: 10-24 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day three: Read 6: 10-13 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day four: Read 6: 14-17 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day five: Read 6: 18-24 and answer the (3) questions.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Day six: Read 6: 10-12 and only answer question (3) What is the application to you?

Day seven: Discuss your study with your partner.

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