

3. How do the following verses and deepen your understanding of the position and purpose of money in a believer's life?

a. Deuteronomy 8:18

b. Proverbs 10:22

c. Matthew 6:19–21

d. Luke 16:13

e. 1 Timothy 6:10

4. Take time to examine your attitude toward wealth and possessions. Do you love and serve money, or do you love and serve the Lord? Are there any changes you need to make to your finances to better obey and serve the Lord? Write out what practical steps you can take this week to implement the changes you need to make.

5. How do you treat those in your life who you have power over? Whether that is your children, an employee, or the person at a restaurant who takes your order. Do you lord your authority over them, or treat them in a Godly manner?

DAY 2 | Patience in Trials | Read James 5:7-11

1. In James 5:7, the focus shifts from the persecutors to the persecuted. In verses 7–9, what instruction and hope does James give to those who are suffering?

2. From the following passages, how is the Lord's return a comfort and hope for believers, especially during times of persecution and suffering?
 - a. Matthew 24
 - b. Romans 8:18
 - c. 2 Timothy 4:8
 - d. James 5:7–9
 - e. 1 Peter 1:6–7, 4:7

3. According to James 5:9, what motive is given for not grumbling against one another? How can this motivate your own obedience?
 - a. Why do you think James encouraged his readers to be patient and steadfast because the Lord's coming was near (verses 8–9)?

4. In verses 10–11, what two examples of suffering and patience did James give? How can they be examples for believers in times of hardship? (See also Hebrews 11)
 - a. What comfort is given in verse 11? How can this strengthen you during trials?

DAY 3 | Do Not Swear | Read James 5:12

1. In James 5:12, what command is given?
 - a. In your opinion, what does the injunction to “let your yes be yes and your no be no” mean practically?
 - b. What additional insight does Matthew 5:33–37 provide?
 - c. Do you think others would describe you as a woman who is true to her word? Explain your answer, including what things might need to change.
2. What do Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 19:11–12, and Deuteronomy 6:13, teach about how God views one’s words?
3. According to Ephesians 4:25–32 and Colossians 4:6, how are believers to use their speech?

DAY 4 | The Prayers of the Righteous | Read James 5:13-20

“The word for “sick” in verse 14 is not referring primarily to those who are physically sick but to those who have become spiritually weak through their suffering. “The weak are those who have been defeated in the spiritual battle, who have lost the ability to endure their suffering. They are the fallen spiritual warriors, the exhausted, weary, depressed, defeated Christians. They have tried

to draw on God's power through prayer, but have lost motivation, even falling into sinful attitudes. Having hit bottom, they are not able to pray effectively on their own. In that condition, the spiritually weak need the help of the spiritually strong (cf. 1Thess. 5:14)." – John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, James*, p. 277

1. In contrast to verse 12, James now instructs believers in the positive use of one's speech. In verses 13–16, what positive forms of speech does James command believers to use?

2. From verses 14–15, remembering that sick refers to weak and struggling believers, why do you think James mentions that if they sinned they will be forgiven?
 - a. What does John 9:1–3 teach about the relationship between sin and health?

3. In verse 16, what exhortation did James give? How can isolation, or pretending that things are going well when they're not, be dangerous for Christians?

4. In verses 17–18, whom did James use as a model of righteous prayer, and how is that prayer described? (You can also skim 1 Kings 17–18 for reasons that his prayers were effective.)

5. According to verses 19–20, what will God do for the person who is brought back from wandering from the truth?
 - a. How do Psalms 32:1 and 85:2 help you understand the concept of covering sin described in verse 20?

DAY 5 | Reflecting on James | Read James 5:1-20

1. Review the book of James. What affected you most, and why?
2. In your own words, summarize the teaching of the book of James in two or three sentences.
3. James gives multiple tests to prove whether one's faith is real. Identify as many as you can, citing the specific reference, and prayerfully consider how you are doing in your own personal walk.
4. How have you seen God's character displayed through the book of James? How will you live differently in light of that?
5. Write a brief prayer of thanks to God for what you have learned through your study of James this fall.

James 5:1-20

- I. The Test of Riches (vv. 1–6)
- II. The Test of Endurance (vv. 7–12)
- III. The Test of Prayer (vv. 13–18)
- IV. Genuine Faith (vv. 19–20)