



## Learning to be “EveryDAY Disciples” through the Book of James

Whoever **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom,  
and **continues in it - not forgetting** what they have heard, but **doing it**  
- they will be blessed in what they do. (James 1:25 <sup>NIV</sup>)

We are starting off 2019 with a series through the book of James. Rather than just hearing the messages, we want to encourage everyone to get to know this book so that we “look intently...continue in it...not forgetting... but doing”. We want the message of James to be a part of your **everyday** life, **every day!**

**There are two challenges that we are inviting to you to join in:**

### **1. Memorize James 1:2-18 (or further!)**

For some of you, that may sound impossible! It is actually easier to memorize 17 verses in a paragraph than 17 verses from different passages. The key is repetition and review. Just keep reading a verse at least 5 times a day until you have it memorized. Once you get the first one down, add the next sentence, and read it 5 times a day until you have that one. Just keep adding verses, you can do it!

### **2. Read the book of James 30 times (or more!)**

One of the best ways to get to know a book of the Bible is by reading repeatedly. You will be surprised how much you will notice by repetition. It will only take around 15 minutes for James, depending on your reading speed.

One of the ways you can stay focused as you read, is to look for repeated themes and mark your Bible. On the back of this page, you will find a chart to help track your progress. It also includes key words or themes you can look for as you go through the book. Take two days per theme. The second day through will be less focused on looking for words and you will be able to notice how James develops that particular theme.

### **Basic Background Info on James:**

**Author:** James was written by the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Galatians 1:19) who was also the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13; 21:18).

**Date:** Written sometime in the AD40's (might be the first NT book written)

**Nature & Purpose:** James writes to Jewish Christians who had been scattered outside of the land of Israel (see James 1:1). It is written like a collection of wisdom sayings about everyday life rather than focusing on one theme.

## Reading Guide for James:

Read a couple of times just to get the flow. Then, begin looking for some of the key words that are repeated throughout the book. The list below will help you track your progress. It includes key words/themes that you can look for as you read.

Before you start, decide how you will identify those key words/themes. You can use different coloured pencils (shade, underline, circle, or box). The colour makes it easy to trace a theme through a book. Another option is to choose symbols that you place beside each word or in the margin. Using a mechanical pencil with 0.5mm lead is a great option since ink tends to bleed through the thin Bible pages.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 - WORLD          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 18                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - HUMILITY             | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 - WISE/WISDOM    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 20                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - FAITH/BELIEVE        | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 - PERFECT/MATURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 22                  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 - TRIAL/TEST/TEMPT     | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 - SIN            |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - PATIENCE            | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 - WORD           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 - THE COMMAND TO "DO" | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 - PRAYER         |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - WORKS/DEEDS         |  |
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