

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

JAMES

Tom Holladay



drivetime
DEVOTIONS

JAMES: A SMALL GROUP STUDY

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ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Welcome to this special Drivetime Devotions, small group study. This five-week study is designed so that you can enjoy Drivetime Devotions as a podcast throughout the week and then talk about it with your small group. This will allow for more time in your small group for discussion, application, and fellowship.

The purpose of Drivetime Devotions is to help you know God's Word and put it into practice. It's usually better to study small sections of God's Word each day instead of a larger section once a week. Studying the Bible is like eating—you'll be healthier if you eat small amounts each day rather than one big meal a week! Episodes are designed to be listened to once per day, five days a week. In the event you miss a day or two, you can still stay on schedule.

ABOUT DRIVETIME DEVOTIONS SMALL GROUP STUDIES

In Drivetime Devotions, Pastor Tom Holladay teaches God's Word and helps you put it into practice. With over 30 million downloads, Drivetime Devotions has built a reputation for changing lives and helping people grow closer to God. You can access this podcast study on James by downloading the DrivetimeDevotions app for your phone or by going to DrivetimeDevotions.com.

HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out unless you want to.

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



LISTEN

Prepare yourself before each study by listening to each week's five daily podcast episodes (one per day).



CHECKING IN

Open each meeting with a time for everyone to check in on each other's progress with the podcast. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



KEY VERSE

Each week you will find a key verse (or verses) from the chapter you are studying. You may want to memorize this verse together as a group.



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

These are questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. The material in this study is meant to be your servant, not your master. Therefore there is no reason to rush through your discussions. Give everyone ample time to share their thoughts.

Some questions will reference the verses from which they are taken. Many groups will want to have someone read those verses accompanying the question. There is something powerful about hearing the Bible read aloud together as a group.



LIVING ON PURPOSE

This section helps you encourage each other in balancing God's five purposes of evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Each week, there will be a prayer, practical action, or personal assignment that focuses on one of these purposes.



PRAYING TOGETHER

At the end of each session you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.

Get ready for God to do incredible things in your life as you begin the adventure of learning more deeply about the most exciting message in the world: the truth about God!

A FEW TIPS BEFORE YOU DIG IN



TELL A FRIEND

As you go through each session, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind different people in your life. You may even want to write their names down beside a point, phrase, or verse in the margins. Take the opportunity to share God's Word in a friend's life during the week.

WEEK ONE: James 1



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK ONE



CHECKING IN

1. If you are just starting together as a group, take time to go around the room and share your name, where you grew up, and what brought you to the group.
2. The book of James is often called the "Proverbs of the New Testament" because it teaches us how to put the teaching of Jesus into practice. How does it encourage you to know we are going to study how to have a faith that works?



KEY VERSE

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:22 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen God use a difficult circumstance to shape your character? Verses 2–4
2. When you face a difficult situation, what often prevents you from asking God for wisdom first? Verses 5–8
3. How does focusing on God's unchanging character affect the way you handle the shifting circumstances in your life? Verses 16–17
4. What practices help you move from just hearing the truth to actually living it out? Verses 22–25

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5. In what specific area is God challenging you to be a "doer of the word" this week? Verses 22–25



LIVING ON PURPOSE

MINISTRY

One of the clearest markers of true religion is how we care for the vulnerable (James 1:27). This week, identify one practical way your group can serve someone in need in your community.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the courage to count it all joy when facing trials. Ask God for the wisdom you need for the specific situations discussed tonight.

WEEK ONE



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK TWO: James 2



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK TWO



CHECKING IN

1. How did it go this past week as you looked for ways to be a "doer of the word" or serve someone in need in your community?
2. Who is someone in your life who has consistently modeled treating everyone with equal respect and dignity?



KEY VERSE

"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

James 2:26 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. In what subtle ways do you find yourself showing favoritism or making judgments based on outward appearances? Verses 1–4
2. How does viewing others through God's "royal law" of love change the way you interact with those who are different from you? Verses 8–9
3. How can you extend more mercy to the people around you this week? Verses 12–13
4. What is one specific step you can take to close the gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live? Verses 14–17
5. If someone examined your actions this past week, what would they conclude about your faith? Verses 18–26



LIVING ON PURPOSE

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship means we don't just believe together; we act together. Discuss how your group can better demonstrate active faith in how you care for one another's practical needs this month.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Confess any areas of favoritism or judgment. Pray for a faith that is vibrant and active, expressing itself through love and good deeds.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK THREE: James 3



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK THREE



CHECKING IN

1. How did you do this past week in extending mercy and putting your faith into action to care for the practical needs of others?
2. What is the most memorable piece of encouragement you've ever received from someone's words?



KEY VERSE

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

James 3:17 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How have you experienced the tongue's powerful ability to either direct or destroy? Verses 3–6
2. In what specific relationships do you struggle most to tame your tongue, and how can you invite God's Spirit to help? Verses 7–8
3. What does the inconsistency of praising God and cursing people reveal about the condition of our hearts? Verses 9–12
4. Where do you most need God's heavenly wisdom in your life right now? Verses 13–17
5. How does cultivating a "peace-loving" and "considerate" spirit change the way you navigate conflict? Verses 17–18



LIVING ON PURPOSE

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship involves growing in heavenly wisdom. Commit this week to pausing before you speak in moments of frustration, asking God for the wisdom that is pure and peace-loving.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Ask the Holy Spirit for the power to tame your tongue. Pray that your group would be a place of heavenly wisdom, peace, and life-giving words.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FOUR: James 4



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:

WEEK FOUR



CHECKING IN

1. How did it go this past week when you tried to pause before speaking in moments of frustration and ask God for heavenly wisdom?
2. What is something you used to argue about when you were younger that seems completely silly to you now?



KEY VERSE

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you."

James 4:7-8 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. When you are in a conflict, how often can you trace the root back to your own unmet desires or selfish ambitions? Verses 1–3
2. What does it look like practically to submit to God in the areas where you are currently experiencing conflict? Verse 7
3. What practices help you draw near to God so that you can experience Him drawing near to you? Verse 8
4. How does remembering that God is the only Lawgiver and Judge free you from the burden of judging others? Verses 11–12
5. How does embracing the brevity of life change your priorities for today? Verses 13–17



LIVING ON PURPOSE

WORSHIP

Worship is ultimately about submission to God. Practice worship this week by intentionally yielding your plans and desires to Him, declaring "If it is the Lord's will" over your schedule.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the humility to submit to God and resist the devil. Ask God to help you draw near to Him, trusting that He will draw near to you.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

WEEK FIVE: James 5



LISTEN

Use this space below to type any notes or thoughts you may have had while listening:



CHECKING IN

1. How did your perspective change this past week as you intentionally yielded your plans to God and declared "If it is the Lord's will" over your schedule?
2. What is something you had to wait a long time for, and what did you learn during that season of waiting?



KEY VERSE

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

James 5:16 (NIV)



DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. How does James' warning to the rich challenge you to evaluate where you place your trust and security? Verses 1–6
2. In what area of your life is God asking you to practice patience, and how can you stand firm while you wait? Verses 7–11
3. How can you cultivate a stronger reflex of turning to prayer first when you are in trouble? Verses 13–14
4. What holds you back from confessing your sins to others, and how can this group become a safe place for healing vulnerability? Verse 16
5. How can you actively and lovingly help bring back someone you know who is wandering from the truth? Verses 19–20



LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM

Evangelism includes bringing wanderers back to the truth. Identify one person who has disconnected from faith or community, and reach out to them this week with a message of grace and an invitation to reconnect.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Spend extended time praying for the sick and those in trouble. Pray for the courage to confess sins to one another and for the wanderers to be brought back to the truth.



TELL A FRIEND

Look back through the study guide above and highlight a point, phrase, or verse that you would like to share with somebody this week.

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