

# **Faith ALIVE!**

## **A study in the Book of James Lesson One**

**Gold River Calvary Chapel  
Women's Bible Fellowship**

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### **A Study in the Book of JAMES**

**Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry**

## **Lesson One**

### **James 1:1-18**

**Summary:** *This week we will learn how to have joy in our trials.*

#### **Step One: Read the Word**

**"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3 (CSB)**

This study uses the English Standard Version Bible translation (ESV), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, and circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

*Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.*

**Complete Step One by reading and marking up James 1:1-18, below, and answering the questions that follow.**

<p><b>James 1:1-18</b> <b>English Standard Version</b></p> <p><b>Greeting</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:</p> <p>Greetings.</p> <p><b>Testing of Your Faith</b></p> <p><sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the</p>	
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one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

<p><sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.</p>	
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**Step 1 Questions:**

1. Who wrote the letter? How does he describe himself? (Verse 1)
  
2.
  - a. Who is he writing to? (Verse 1)
  
  - b. Based on his use of the “twelve tribes” would these be Christian Jew or Non-Jewss?
  
  - c. What does “dispersion” mean? Why might these believers be dispersed? (See Acts 8:1)
  
3. What does the “testing of our faith” produce? What is the end result? (Verses 2-3)

4. Who can we go for wisdom? What can we trust will happen when we do? (Verse 5)
5. What is the result of being double-minded and doubting? (Verse 7)
6. What is the common fate of all mankind, regardless if they are rich or poor? (Verse 9-11)
7. What is promised to those who remain steadfast under trial? (Verse 12)
8.
  - a. Who does not tempt? (Verse 13)
  - b. List the progression in the human heart and mind that leads to sin when tempted in verses 14-15. What does sin ultimately lead to?
9.
  - a. How many and what sort of gifts can we expect from our Heavenly Father? (Verse 17)
10. Whose will was it to save us and how is it accomplished? What is the “word of truth?” (Verse 18)



## ***Step 2: Consider the Word***

**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16 (CSB)**

Re-read James 1:1-18 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the English Standard Version (ESV) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1.     a. Why do you think James immediately addresses the reason for trials to these dispersed Christians in his letter? (Verses 2-3)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2.     Look up “steadfastness” in the dictionary and write the definition below:  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- a. How could the testing of our faith produce steadfastness?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What is the fruit of steadfastness? (Verse 4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3.     Look ahead to verse 12. What additional blessing is there for those who are steadfast under trial?

4. Look up 1 Peter 1:6-7 in the **ESV** and fill in the blanks below:

<sup>6</sup>In this you \_\_\_\_\_, though now for \_\_\_\_\_,  
if \_\_\_\_\_, you have been grieved by various \_\_\_\_\_,<sup>7</sup> so  
that the \_\_\_\_\_ genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that  
perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

a. What does 1 Peter 1:6 tell you about the reason for a Christian's trials? How long do they last?

b. What does 1 Peter 1:7 tell you about what will result from a Christian's trials?

c. How does this compare to the trials of the unsaved?

d. Why do you think both James and Peter tell us to "count it all joy" and "rejoice" when Christians go through trials? Would joy be dependent on one's circumstances?



5. See James 1:5.
  - a. Why do you think James is concerned about our need for wisdom immediately following his discussion of trials?
  - b. Look ahead to James 3:17. What does Godly wisdom look like?
6. See James 1:6-7. Why do you think a “double-minded” and “doubting” Christian would be “unstable” in all his or her ways?
7.
  - a. What do you think James is trying to tell the poor in verse 9 about how God views them?
  - b. What is James trying to tell the rich in verses 9-10 about how they see themselves? Why is this wrong?
  - c. What additional understanding do we get about what our attitude should be with what we are given in 1 Timothy 6:6-10?

8. See verses 13-14.
  - a. Why do you think James wants Christians to know that God does not tempt?
  - b. What does this say about our “blame shifting?” (See also Genesis 3:12)
  - c. See 1 Corinthians 10:13. What help does God give us in our temptation?
9. Verse 17 tells us that every good and perfect gift comes down from God the Father. List some of those good and perfect gifts that are described in the first 18 verses of James 1 below.
10. Verse 18 describes how a person is saved, by God’s will and by the gospel of truth. Look up the following verses and note the similarities to James 1:18:

John 1:12-13:

1 Peter 1:23:

**Memory Verse:** “<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)

Write the memory verse down below:

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### ***Step 3: Walk in the Word***

**“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...” Philipplians 1:27 (ESV)**

Re-read James 1:1-18 and answer the questions below:

1. How has the study of James 1:1-18 changed your view of:
  - a. Your trials?
  - b. Wisdom?
  - c. Temptation?
2. Which of the above is a challenge for you right now in your life?
3. What have you learned about God that may help you be steadfast?

Write the memory verse below:

**Memory Verse:** “<sup>17</sup> Every \_\_\_\_\_ gift and every \_\_\_\_\_ gift is from \_\_\_\_\_, coming down from the \_\_\_\_\_ of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to \_\_\_\_\_.” (James 1:17)

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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