

Faith ALIVE!

A study in the Book of James Introduction

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

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A Study in the Book of JAMES by Anne Eowan

Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry

Welcome

My Dear Sisters in Christ:

What a privilege to study the book of James with you all this semester.

James wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to encourage his brothers and sisters in Christ to have a living and active faith in Jesus – the kind of faith that shows itself in obedience to the Word of God and love for others. James teaches us what that looks like in a life – and what it does not look like. He gives us very practical and godly wisdom to understand how to “walk the Christian walk” and not just “talk the talk.”

How needful that is for us today when we have so much pulling on our hearts all around us. We need “straight talk” in this deceptive world, and James gives us just that.

May the Holy Spirit bring this letter alive to our hearts and grow us closer as sisters in Christ as we study this glorious letter word for word together!

In Him,

Anne

Anne Eowan
Women's Ministry Director
Gold River Calvary Chapel

Study Schedule and Times

Thursday Morning Study: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – at the church

Thursday Evening Study: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - at the church or on Zoom (Zoom link is on the Women's Ministry page on our website)

Each week we there will be teaching on the passage of scripture assigned for that week in the lesson, followed by group discussion of the lesson and prayer.

Introduction	Thursday, May 11
Lesson One	Thursday, May 18
Lesson Two	Thursday, May 25
Lesson Three	Thursday, June 1
Lesson Four	Thursday, June 8
Lesson Five	Thursday, June 15
Lesson Six	Thursday, June 22
Lesson Seven	Thursday, June 29

Please register online for the morning or evening study: www.goldrivercalvarychapel.com, Women's Ministry page. There you will get the Introduction and the lessons. Lessons also available at Gold River Calvary Chapel at the Ministry Table.

How To Do This Study

This study uses the inductive method of bible study, which simply means that as you are studying this book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, you will be completing three separate steps in every lesson and asking yourself these three important questions:

- ***What does it say?*** Rather than just reading quickly over the scripture, each week you will be reading the assigned passage for comprehension. This will be **Step One** of each lesson. In Step One, you will be given a column on the right of the passage in which to jot down important information, such as the “who, what, where, when and how” of what is being relayed. You can also circle, underline or highlight important words as you read through the scripture. You will also want to use the Bible Study Aids that are suggested in this Introduction, on pages 6 and 7.

There will also be questions in Step One to answer that will help you understand what is being said in the passage.

This study uses the English Standard Version (ESV) translation for use in completing the answers to the questions in lessons, but you are encouraged to use as many bible translations as you like to glean as much meaning as possible as you read through the lessons. Some suggested translations for you to explore are the New King James Version (NKJV), the English Standard Version (ESV), the New Living Translation (NLV), and the Amplified Version (AMP).

- ***What does it mean?*** In **Step Two** of your lessons, you will be looking at what the verses mean – both from the point of view of the original believers who received the letter and to all believers at all times. In other words, James wrote his letter to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem more

than 2000 years ago, but the doctrines and truths he wrote about have been preserved in scripture for all believers. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 has this great truth:

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (NLT)

- ***What does it mean to me?*** In **Step Three** of your lessons, you will be asking yourself this question: how does this scripture relate personally to me? Is the Holy Spirit bringing a particular application to my own life from the truths I am reading? How can I apply this to my own Christian walk and experience?

As you complete each lesson and we discuss it, you will find that your answers to Step Three may vary significantly from someone else’s answer because the Holy Spirit so personally applies scripture to individual hearts. There are no wrong answers! But each of us will grow as we share the truths that the Lord lays on each of His daughter’s heart.

Please note that the lessons are not designed to bring out every detail of the passage that week. There will be teaching each week to help us understand the passages in more depth. But you will find that you will get so much more out of the teaching by doing the homework ahead of time. And you will have something to share with your sisters in the discussion time.

Never forget to pray before you open the Bible and study a lesson, asking that the Holy Spirit open the Word to your understanding. May God use this study to grow you in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may you fall more deeply in love with Him.

Bible Study Aids

There are many bible study aids that can help you gain more understanding out of your bible reading. These study aids include bible dictionaries, different translations, maps, timelines, commentaries and other helps.

Some good “one stop shop” sources for all these different aids are as follows:

Study Bibles. A good study bible is an excellent source of these aids. Study bibles provide context, cross references, maps, commentary and more to help you understand the passage you are reading.

Some study bibles we would recommend include the Nelson Study Bible and the ESV Study Bible.

Bible Study Websites. These resources are free online and are a “one stop shop” to find dictionaries, commentaries (both audio and text), maps, timelines and other study resources that help put the bible in context.

Two we would recommend are as follows:

Blue Letter Bible Website: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

On this website, you are able to search and look up a scripture by its chapter and verse, or by using words and phrases. You also can choose which bible translation you want (King James Version, New King James Version, etc.).

Once a passage of scripture pops up, you will see “tools” to the left of each verse. Click on the tools bar to see a number of study resources, such as the Hebrew/Greek translation of the verse (“interlinear”), cross references, commentaries, versions of the bible, etc. There are audio commentaries

that are listed as well as text commentaries. The audio commentaries are generally a pastor teaching from that area of scripture or topic. The text commentaries are written commentaries that can be very helpful. A good source for both written and audio commentaries are Pastors David Guzik and Chuck Smith. (You can also access David Guzik's written and audio commentary on enduringword.com).

On the Blue Letter Bible website there is a button for "study" at the top of the home page that provides a drop-down menu of a number of resources. There is also an app you can download for free on your phone or tablet.

Bible Gateway Website

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

This website is easy to read and access. On the home page, at the left, there are bible study tools that you can click on. There is an app that you can download to your phone as well.

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