

The Book of James

This is a fast, practical, and challenging book to study. *Fasten your seatbelts!*

Turn to the Book of James. It's after the Book of Hebrews, before 1 Peter, near the end of the Bible.

Don't forget that many of the books in the NT were letters to people or churches.

Flip through the New Testament right now, and see if you can name those books that were originally letters (also called *epistles* in the New Testament). Write them down. It's OK if your leader helps you figure out the answer to this.

Most scholars believe that the Book of James was originally written by a pastor named James, who led the first church in Jerusalem. **If your Bible has maps in the back, figure out where Jerusalem is.**

James is a book about our own new birth in Christ (see verses 1:16-18), and our growth in Christ (see vs 1:25). From there, the rest of the book shows us how to keep developing in our growth spiritually by learning how to live out what we believe.

Read James 1:1. Now read Mt 13:55 and Galatians 1:19.

Who was James related to?

“ALL PLAY” Think about your own brothers & sisters. What is difficult, and great, about them? Each person should share. If you're an only child, describe what's been good & difficult about that.

What do you think it was like to have grown up with Jesus? Be specific.

Read *John 7:1-8*. When Jesus was alive, how does it seem like James treated him?

Finish with looking at ***Acts 1:14***. Clearly, after seeing the life, ministry, death & resurrection of his brother Jesus, James was transformed.

Spend time praying for two things:

- a. **Your siblings** - remember what was shared by each group member
- b. **Your small group's study of the Book of James.** Invite God to teach you new things about him, and how to live those things out. Remember how James was changed by being with Jesus. ***Pray that the same thing would happen to you!***

LEADERS' GUIDE

Make sure you spend time going over this study before you study it with the students.

If you don't finish it all the first week, it's fine to extend it. Just don't drag it out – they'll get sick of the Book of James before they even get to the good stuff!

Encourage them to each bring a Bible. Help them get one if they do not have one, or just own a "little kid" Bible from their childhood.

Ask them to:

1. Write their name on their copy of the study.
2. Bring the study back each week.