

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on the Book of James

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

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Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned.

I also **strongly** urge teachers to use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive in-class discussion. Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc. Instead, let the questions be assigned as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly."

I also urge the class to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

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For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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Assignments on James 1

Read James 1 then answer these questions:

1. Who is the author and how does he describe himself? (Think: What else do we know about this man?)

2. To whom does he address his epistle?

3. **Define** “temptation,” “divers,” and “patience” (KJV vv 2,3). (Think: Contrast the attitude expressed by James to the way people generally view trials or temptations.)

4. Explain how temptations can be good (vv 2-4). (Think: Should we deliberately allow ourselves to be placed in tempting situations? Explain.)

5. **Define** “wisdom,” and explain what the source of wisdom is.

6. Explain the connection between wisdom, prayer, and Bible study. (Think: How is a prayer for wisdom answered? By direct revelation?)

7. What is meant by praying “in faith,” and what happens when we pray doubting?

8. List 3 other **passages** showing God answers prayer.

9. **Special Assignment:** List other conditions we must meet in order for prayer to be answered. (Think: Will God give us just anything we pray for? Are we praying “in doubt” if we think He might not give what we ask for? Explain.)

10. **Define** “double-minded,” and explain how God looks at such a man.

11. In what should the lowly brother and the rich brother glory (vv 9,10)?

12. Explain the illustration used in vv 10,11 showing that rich people will fade away. (Think: Why should a rich man glory in humility?)

13. List two other **passages** showing life and/or riches are temporary.

14. Tell what blessing is offered in v12 for enduring temptation, and explain what it means.

15. **Special Assignment:** Explain the relationship between God and temptation (v13). (Think: What attitude does this mean we should have toward God when we are tempted?)

16. **Define** “lust,” and describe the progression from temptation to death (vv 14,15). (Think: Explain the difference between temptation and sin. Is it possible to sin without outwardly doing anything?)

17. List two other **passages** about temptation.

18. Describe some ways people may be deceived in these matters (v16).

19. If God is not the source of temptation, what is He the source of (v17)? (Think: In what sense does God never vary, and why discuss this here?)

20. Explain the connection between God’s word and the new birth (v18).

21. **Define** “firstfruit.”

22. List two other **passages** about the dangers of anger. (Think: Does the Bible teach anger is always sinful? Explain.)

23. **Application:** Give examples of problems that anger can cause. (Think: Why is it important to be swift to hear and slow to speak?)

24. What can God's word do for us, and how should we live to receive its benefits (v21)?

25. State the theme of vv 22-25.

26. Explain the illustration of the mirror (vv 23,24).

27. List 3 other **passages** about the importance of obedience. (Think: Explain the consequences for the doctrine of salvation by "faith only.")

28. **Define** "religion," and describe one way our religion may be vain (v26). (Think: How will a person speak if his tongue is "bridled"?)

29. List two activities required by pure religion (v27).

30. What does it mean to "visit" widows and orphans?

31. **Special Assignment:** Is the context here referring to church work or individual work? Does this passage authorize church support of benevolent institutions?

32. What is the "world," and how do we stay unspotted from it?

Assignments on James 2

Read James 2 then answer these questions:

1. **Define** “respect of persons” (KJV), and list three other **passages** about it.

2. Describe the specific example James gives for respect of persons.

3. **Application:** List 3 other aspects of life in which people sometimes unfairly discriminate against others.

4. **Special Assignment:** May we ever make distinctions between people, and if so, on what basis (give b/c/v)? (Think: What applications should be made to homosexuals who claim they should be treated like a minority race? What about people who are poor because they are too lazy to work?)

5. What does James say is wrong about respect of persons in v4?

6. **Application:** Describe other problems that can be caused in relationships between people if some show respect of persons.

7. Contrast rich and poor people as described by James in vv 5-7. (Think: Are these things true of all poor or rich people?)

8. What is the royal law, and where else in Scripture is it recorded?

9. Explain how respect of persons violates the royal law.

10. What is the condition of people who practice respect of persons (v9)?

11. Explain the principle of law stated in v10.

12. What illustration is used in v11 to demonstrate the principle? (Think: How does this apply to the discussion of respect of persons?)

13. List two other **passages** that teach the importance of complete obedience. (Think: What lessons should we learn about justifying or continuing sin in our lives?)

14. By what law will we be judged?

15. **Special Assignment:** In what sense is this a law of “liberty”? Are we free to do as we please? Explain.

16. **Define** “mercy,” and explain how it relates to respect of persons. (Think: Connect “judging” in vv 4,12, & 13. Is all judging wrong? What is the point?)

17. What new subject is introduced in vv 14-26, and how is the issue stated in v14?

18. List two other **passages** that discuss both faith and obedience (not necessarily using those words). (Think: What prominent doctrine says obedience is not necessary to salvation?)

19. What example in vv 15,16 illustrates the issue?

20. What does the illustration prove according to v17? (Think: What good is a “dead” faith? Can it save?)

21. List several Bible examples of people who had a faith in God but were not saved.

22. According to v18, how are works and faith related? (Think: Is James saying people can be saved without faith? Explain.)

23. Who believes in God in v19, and what is the point?

24. What conclusion is repeated in v20? (Think: Cf. v20 to v14. In what sense is faith without works dead?)

25. What Bible character is introduced in v21, and what did he do?

26. List two other Scriptures that discuss this event, then explain the meaning of v22.

27. What passage is quoted in v23, and what does it say about Abraham? (Think: What is meant by “reckon” – KJV?)

28. **Application:** Explain the conclusion of v24, and explain the application to the doctrine of salvation by “faith only.”

29. Describe another example of works, and what did she do (v25)?

30. How are faith and works illustrated in v26? (Think: What does this teach about physical life and death?)

31. **Special Assignment:** How do you harmonize the teaching of James 2 with such **passages** as Rom. 4:1-5?

Assignments on James 3

Read James 3 then answer these questions:

1. Why should not many be teachers?
2. List two other *passages* showing that all Christians need to be teachers. (Think: How do you harmonize these verses with James 3:1?)
3. Where else does the Bible teach that all people sin?
4. How difficult is control of our tongue according to v2?
5. List 3 other *passages* about the danger of evil speech and/or the importance of controlling speech.
6. List three examples in James 3:3-5 that show something large and powerful can be influenced by something small.
7. Explain how these examples listed above illustrate the tongue (speech).

8. **Application:** List three Bible examples in which a person's speech led to severe consequences.

9. Explain how the tongue can defile the whole body (v6).
10. Explain the connection between the tongue and hell.

11. How is the tongue worse than animals (v7)?

12. **Special Assignment:** What does the Bible teach about man's dominion over animals (give b/c/v)?

13. How is the tongue described in v8? Explain the meaning.

14. What example of speech problems is described in v9?

15. **Define** "curse" and "bless."

16. List 3 other **passages** about cursing.

17. What reason is given why cursing is wrong.

18. **Special Assignment:** List two other **passages** showing man is in God's image, and explain what that means.

19. What illustrations show the inconsistency of such cursing (vv 11,12)?

20. **Application:** What Bible principle is confirmed by the fact that a fig tree cannot yield olives, and what is the application to evolution?

21. How does a person act if he is truly wise (v13)?

22. **Define** “meekness,” and list two other **passages** where it is used. (Think: Does meekness mean one is weak and never stands for anything? Explain.)

23. **Define** “envy” and “strife” as used in vv 14,16 (KJV).

24. List three other **passages** where one or both of these words are used. (Think: How do these characteristics contrast to “meekness”?)

25. What kind of “wisdom” promotes these attitudes, and how is this wisdom described?

26. Describe the consequences these attitudes lead to (v16), and explain how this can happen.

27. **Define** these terms from v17 (KJV):

pure —

peaceable —

gentle —

easy to be entreated —

mercy —

good fruits —

partiality —

hypocrisy —

<p>28. Special Assignment: Explain which characteristic of v17 must come “first,” and tell why this is so.</p>

29. Tell what fruit these righteous qualities will produce, and tell how this would happen.

30. Summarize the two kinds of wisdom described in vv 13-18.

Assignments on James 4

Read James 4 then answer these questions:

1. **Define** “wars,” “fightings,” and “covet.” (Think: What kind of conflicts are described here?)

2. Tell what causes these conflicts, and explain how this happens (vv 1,2). (Think: In what sense do pleasures “war in our members”?)

3. Why do Christians sometimes not receive what they want? (Think: What kind of murder or killing is referred to?)

4. **Application:** What condition of prayer is listed here? Give examples of prayers that displease God in this way.

5. What sin is described in v4, and what consequence does it produce? (Think: How is the word “world” used here, and where else has James so used it?)

6. Why does James call this “adultery”?

7. **Application:** List two other **passages** regarding the dangers of the “world,” and give examples of friendship of the world.

8. V5 is difficult. Study cross-references and explain the verse in your own words.

9. **Define** “grace” and “proud.”

10. What is God’s attitude toward pride and humility? (Think: How does this connect to vv 1-5?)

11. How should we handle the devil and what will the result be (v7)? (Think: Contrast this to various superstitious ways people think they can be protected from the devil.)

12. **Application:** Give examples that illustrate how the devil should be treated.

13. In contrast, how should we act toward God, and what will the result be?

14. What must we do to draw near to God? (Think: How does one cleanse or purify himself before God?)

15. For what should Christians weep and mourn (v9)? (Think: How does this compare to things people of the world typically laugh or cry about?)

16. **Define** “humble,” and explain the results it produces.

17. List two other **passages** about humility.

18. What topic does James return to in v11, and what kind of sins are included in what he discusses? (Think: In what sense does one “judge the law” if he commits these sins?)

19. List three **passages** about rebuking sin. (Think: Does James 2:11 forbid rebuking sin? Explain.)

20. Who is the one lawgiver (v12), and how do you know? (Think: What connection does this have to v11?)

21. What did James rebuke people for saying in v13? (Think: What kind of attitude does such a statement express?)

22. What reasons are given why this is a wrong attitude (v14)?

23. List two other **passages** showing we do not know the future.

24. **Application:** List two lessons we should learn from the fact we do not know the future. Does this mean it is wrong to make future plans? Explain.

25. List two other **passages** showing the brevity of life.

26. What should we say (v15) instead of bragging about the future? (Think: Does this mean we must always physically say these words?)

27. Explain v16 in your own words.

28. What sin is described in v17? (Think: Why is this warning important?)

29. **Application:** Give examples of this sin.

Assignments on James 5

Read James 5 then answer these questions:

1. Who is spoken to, beginning in 5:1, and what are they told to do?

2. List two other *passages* that warn of the danger of riches.

3. **Application:** Think of 3 reasons why riches are a temptation. Does this mean all rich people are in sin? Explain.

4. What problem do possessions have according to vv 2,3?

5. List 2 other *passages* about the temporary nature of possessions.

6. **Application:** Name 2 lessons we should learn from this.

7. What specific sin of rich people is described in v4? (Think: **Define** “Sabaoth.”)

8. Explain the illustration used in v5.

9. What sin common to rich people is described in v6? (Think: Who is the just or righteous one referred to here? Explain.)

10. Name other sins rich people often tend to commit.

11. What subject is discussed in vv 7ff?

12. Explain the illustration of the husbandman (v7 — KJV). (Think: What is the “early and latter rain”?)

13. What does v8 teach about the coming of the Lord, and what does it mean? (Think: What “coming of the Lord” is referred to?)

14. Describe the sin discussed in v9, and tell why it should be avoided. (Think: How does this connect to other parts of the book?)

15. What example is upheld for us in v10?

16. Who is specifically named, and what lesson should we learn from him? (Think: Name some other men who also teach this lesson.)

<p>17. Special Assignment: Briefly tell the story of Job, and explain how he illustrates the lesson in context.</p>
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18. **Define** “swear,” and list two other New Testament **passages** about it. (Think: Explain the meaning of v12.)

19. What should suffering people do, and how would it help?

20. What should cheerful people do, and why it is appropriate?

21. **Special Assignment:** Research the Catholic doctrine of extreme unction and explain it.

22. **Case Study:** Explain whether or not extreme unction fits v14 and other Bible teaching.

23. Read Mark 6:13 and Luke 10:34, then explain how anointing with oil is used there. (Think: What does v14 refer to, and what application should be made today?)

24. List two other **passages** regarding confession of sins.

25. **Application:** Explain some advantages of confessing sins to other Christians, and tell when we might need to do so.

26. **Case Study:** Explain whether this passage justifies the Catholic concept of confessing to a priest or praying to Mary.

27. List two other **passages** about the power of prayer.

28. Explain the example of answered prayer in vv 17,18, and tell where it is described in the Old Testament.

29. Tell what we should do for those in error, and list two other **passages** on the subject.

30. Explain why doing this is an act of love.

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