



JAMES 3-5

Faith in Action

Jesus' wisdom for everyday life

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Flourish Women Tuesday

August 2024

This Study Booklet belongs to

Welcome to Flourish Women Tuesday at Tea Tree Gully Anglican Church.

We are thrilled that you are with us to study, hear and learn from God's Word together.

Please wear your name tag to help us get to know each other.

MORNING PROGRAM

9am Creche opens

9.15-10.15 Small Group Studies

10.15-10.45 Morning Tea

10.45-11.25 Talk

11.30 Close (please collect your children immediately)

The letter of James

James, the half-brother of Jesus, became a believer when the risen Lord appeared to him! He served as a much-loved and respected leader for the struggling Jerusalem church until his martyrdom in AD62. James' life was transformed by his faith, and in his letter he applies the wisdom of Jesus to everyday situations in the life of the church.

For James, living wisely means putting our faith in Jesus into action. We're saved by faith alone, through Jesus alone, BUT genuine faith never remains alone – it always produces good works. In fact, faith without deeds is dead and useless.

James 1:26-27 tells us that true saving faith shows itself in three practical ways: 1. controlling our tongues, 2. caring for the vulnerable, and 3. Living a pure life following God's wise ways.

My prayer is that our belief in the glorious Lord Jesus will show itself in our transformed behaviour as we put our faith into action through these studies.

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Digging Deeper:

Further reading suggestions:

James For You, Sam Allberry (Good Book Company, 2015)

James: The Wisdom of the Brother of Jesus, John Dickson (Aquila, 2006)

BIBLE STUDY 1: Words of Wisdom (James 3:1-18)

Our words are powerful and revealing. Wise words flow only from hearts brought humbly under Jesus' control.

1. Can you think of a time when words (your own or others') deeply impacted your life?

2. From the following verses in James, describe the kind of words God speaks (or doesn't speak)?

1:5

1:12

1:13

1:18

1:25

3. How were people in James' church speaking? Read James 1:13, 1:26, 2:3-4, 2:14-16.

4. Read James 3:1-2. Why will Christian teachers be judged with greater strictness?

5. Read James 3:3-10. Note down how James describes the human tongue here.

6. Read James 3:11-12. What do our words reveal about us? Read Matt 12:33-37.

7. Read James 3:13-18 and fill in the table below:

	Hellish wisdom (v14-16)	Heavenly wisdom (v13, 17-18)
Who gives it		
Heart attitude		
Fruit produced		

8. Read verse 17 again. Which of these ways of speaking do you find hardest to do? Why?

9. Reflect: Have you spoken 'hellish' words this week? What was the result? How might you repair the damage? How could you speak differently in future?

10. Jesus says our mouth speaks what our heart is full of. Discuss practical ways of filling our hearts with heavenly wisdom this week, so we can speak words of life.

TALK 1: Words of Wisdom (James 3: 1-18)

Our speech matters to God! Words are powerful, revealing our hearts, and only God can help us control them. Wise words overflow from a humble, Jesus-loving heart.

James – a recap

True faith can be SEEN

True religion (James 1:26-27)

Our words matter to God

Teachers: Follow the Teacher! (3:1-2)

God's wisdom, not our own

Followers

Controlled tongues indicate Christian maturity

Words – powerful and poisoned (3:3-12)

Powerful (v3-5):

Proverbs 18:21 Power of life or death

Destructive (v5-6)

Untameable (v7-8)

Revealing (v9-12)

Helpless hearts

Poisoned

Jesus' antidote

Hellish Wisdom and Heavenly Wisdom (3:13-18)

Pride and poison – death words

Humility and harmony – life-giving words

Faith in action: Speaking wisely

Proverbs 12:18

1. Do my words reveal a double-minded heart?
2. How can I avoid death words?
3. Who can I serve with life-giving words?