

JAMES 3-5

Faith in Action

Jesus' wisdom for everyday life

Danielle Maude

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 |
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| 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 2: Undivided Hearts – Winning the War Within (James 4:1-17)

Compromise with the world means a divided heart, causing strife within and around us. Only God's grace and humble repentance grow a single-minded walk with him.

Read James 4:1-5

| 1. Consider a conflict you've been involved in. How did it affect your prayers? |
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| 2. Why do we sometimes hesitate or fail to pray for what we want? Discuss some right and wrong motives for prayer. |
| 3. Verses 4-5 pack a big punch. In what particular way are you tempted to be double-minded (over-friendly with the world)? |
| 4. What does it mean that God is a 'jealous' God? Read Exodus 20:5-6, Isaiah 54:5, Malachi 3:17. Is God's jealousy good or bad for us? |

Read James 4:6-10

5. From verses 6-7, what particular thing does God 'give us more grace' to do? Why is this thing particularly important in our relationship with God?

| 6. Verses 7-10 describe the way back to God when we've compromised with the world. From these verses, what does true repentance involve? |
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| Read James 4:11-17. |
| Our relationship with God affects ALL our relationships. |
| 7. From verse 12, how is slandering one another (pronouncing judgment) an attack on God? |
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| 8. Are there ways your plans don't reflect God's will? What needs to change in <i>how</i> you plan and in <i>what</i> you plan? |
| 9. Verse 15 reminds us that God alone controls the future. Share why this is good news for you personally. |
| Reflect and act: |
| 10. How we treat others reflects our view of who God is. Consider how you treat others. What does this reveal about your picture of God? |
| 11. What good do you know you should be doing? How can you ensure you follow through in this? |

| Talk 2: Undivided Hearts – Winning the War Within |
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| God gives us his grace to humble ourselves and walk single-mindedly with him. |
| **The War Within the Walls |
| Recap |
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| James 1:26-27 |
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| The Trojan Horse |
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| Warring desires - three examples |
| **Divided heart, Imaginary god |
| 1. Quarrels (v1-3) |
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| Praying to an imaginary god |
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| Humble yourself before our good Father |
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| 2. Pronouncing judgment (v11-12) |
| |
| Usurping God's throne |

Humble yourself before the only Judge

3. Godless plans (v13-17)

Doing the good we know we should do

Humble yourself before the Eternal Lord of time

| Compromise is sleeping with the enemy! (v4) |
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| **Heart change – by God's grace alone (v5-6) |
| The goodness of jealous love |
| Grace for humility |
| A heart realignment |
| **Cultivating an Undivided Heart (v7-10) |
| Submit |
| Resist |
| Draw near |
| Purify |
| Grieve |
| Humble yourself and God will lift you up |
| Lost child, gracious Father |
| **Reflection and prayer |
| Psalm 139:23-24 |
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Faith in action this week

'Undivided'