

James

Day 1: James - Unbeliever

What would it be like if we had 7 kids in our family?

Read Matthew 13:55-56

1. What was the minimum number of children that lived under Mary and Joseph's roof?
 - a. Jesus, James, Joseph, Simon, Judas, and Sisters – 7
2. So who was James?
 - a. The half brother of Jesus

Read Mark 3:31-35

1. How would you describe your reaction if you were one of Jesus's siblings?
 - a. Hurt, Angry, Confused, Ashamed

Read John 7:5

1. Did Jesus's brothers believe in him initially?
 - a. No

Application: Are you a believer or unbeliever of Jesus?

Day 2: James - Believer

What would you do if you saw a frog get run over by a car and then come back to life? What would you think about that frog?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7

1. Jesus appeared to James specifically. What do you think Jesus said to James?
 - a. We're not sure, but the point is James saw that Jesus had risen from the dead!
2. What do you think was the result of that conversation?
 - a. We find out in Acts 1:4-15

Read Acts 1:4-15

1. Who were these people?
 - a. Believers waiting for the Holy Spirit
2. How do we know James was there?
 - a. v. 14 – Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers
3. Who do we see is now a new believer?
 - a. Jesus's brothers – this would include James! James had previously rejected Christ, but was now a disciple.

Read Acts 12:17

1. What instruction does Peter give?
 - a. “Tell these things to James and the other brothers” – showing James is now a believer

Application:

1. Do you think anyone is “too far gone” to become a believer in Jesus?
2. Who can we ask God to help become a follower of Jesus?

Day 3: James - Leader

If you could spend time with only two people in the world, who would they be?

In today’s passage, Paul is going to spend time with two special people.

Read Galatians 1:11-24

1. What is this passage about?
 - a. Paul’s early conversion and initial discipleship
2. Read verse 19, how is James distinguished from other apostles?
 - a. Paul says, “I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.”
3. Who is James now?
 - a. James is working alongside Peter in Jerusalem.

Read Galatians 2:7-9

1. Where does James show up in these verses?
 - a. He is reaching out to the circumcised with Peter and John
2. What do you think Paul meant by “pillars”?
 - a. The 3 main leaders

Application: How could God use you if you follow Him completely?

Day 4: Slave of Jesus

What does it mean to be a slave?

Read James 1:1

1. We learned that James was a leader in the early church, does James introduce himself as a leader?
How does he introduce himself?
 - a. “A servant of God”
 - b. In the Greek this word is even stronger and has more of the idea of a slave.
2. What kind of writing is this – letter, story, poem?
 - a. Letter (“Epistle” is the fancy word)
3. Who was the book being written to?
 - a. “To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion”

- b. This letter was a “circular letter” meant to be shared with many groups of believers.
- 4. What does it tell you about the people that they were part of the “twelve tribes”?
 - a. They were Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Messiah.
- 5. What does it mean they were “in the dispersion?”
 - a. The dispersion was when the people of Israel were scattered in many nations due to persecution.
- 6. What does James say to the believers?
 - a. “Greetings” – in the Greek it’s “chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Application: What does it mean for you to be a slave of Jesus?

Day 5: Heroic Endurance

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

When did a superhero have to endure something really difficult?

Read James 1:2-3

- 1. What does James tell the believers to “count all joy?”
 - a. Trials of various kinds
- 2. Why should they consider trials a joyful thing?
 - a. Because trials produce steadfastness (or perseverance)
- 3. Why does James say “count” it all joy and not “feel” all joy? What’s the difference?
 - a. To feel is an emotion, but to count or consider is a mental exercise that means to think and reflect. James wants us to use our brains during trials and remember they serve a purpose.
- 4. What is steadfastness?
 - a. Steadfastness means perseverance or “heroic endurance”
- 5. What is the result of us persevering?
 - a. We will become “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”
- 6. What does it mean to be “perfect and complete, lacking in nothing?”
 - a. It means that we are a fully grown up Christian who reflects Jesus Christ.

Application:

- 1. What are some things in your life that are hard trials?
- 2. How can you heroically endure these hardships?

Day 6: Wisdom

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What is something you wish you knew how to do?

Read James 1:5-8

1. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
 - a. Knowledge is brain facts, but wisdom is knowing and taking the right actions. (For example: you make know that you need to be quiet during school, but wisdom is actually being quiet during school.)
2. What are we to do if we lack wisdom?
 - a. Ask God
3. Why do we always have to ask?
 - a. God wants us to acknowledge that we need Him – this requires humility
4. How will God respond to our request for wisdom?
 - a. He will give it to us
5. What is the condition in order to receive it?
 - a. We must not doubt. We must not only go to God for wisdom but also have confidence that we will receive it.

Application: In what areas do you need to ask God to give you wisdom?

Day 7: Rich vs. Poor

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What would you do if you had a billion dollars?

Read James 1:9-11

1. What does it mean to be a “lowly brother?”
 - a. To be poor
2. What are the poor to take pride in?
 - a. Their exaltation
3. What does exaltation mean?
 - a. Their high position
4. What “high position” do the poor have?
 - a. Their ultimate position in Christ
5. Where does James want the poor to look?
 - a. Beyond this life to eternity
6. Who is compared to withering flowers?
 - a. Rich
7. What does James call the rich to do?

- a. To remember the futility of earthly riches
- 8. Where does James want the rich to look?
 - a. Toward the end of this life

Application:

- 1. What are the blessings if you're poor someday?
- 2. What are the blessings if you're rich someday?
- 3. What should your attitude be if you are poor?
- 4. What should your attitude be if you are rich?

Day 8: Tests

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What is the hardest test you ever had?

Read James 1:12

- 1. Who is blessed?
 - a. The one who remains steadfast under trial
- 2. What does it mean to remain steadfast?
 - a. It means to pass the test by persevering and having heroic endurance.
- 3. What does the one who perseveres receive?
 - a. Crown of life
- 4. What is the crown of life?
 - a. Receiving eternal life

Application:

- 1. What is a test that you persevering through now?
- 2. How can you heroically endure this hardship?

Day 9: Temptation

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What's the hardest thing you ever had to drag? What's the easiest thing you ever had to drag?

Read James 1:13-15

- 1. Who is tempted?
 - a. Each person (v. 14) – no one escapes it
- 2. Does God tempt us?
 - a. No – this especially important to remember after talking about enduring trials/tests yesterday. God is not a mean teacher giving us hard tests.

3. What are we tempted by (v. 14)?
 - a. Our own evil desires (Proverbs 19:3)
4. When we follow our sinful desires, what's happening to us?
 - a. We are being lured away
5. What does it mean that desires give birth to sin?
 - a. If we allow our evil desires to drag us along then they will produce sin in our life.
6. What does sin give birth to?
 - a. Death

Application:

1. What are some sins that you struggle to give into?
2. What are some things you can do that will make it harder for you to be dragged away by that evil desire?

Day 10: Gifts

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What is the best gift you've ever received?

Read James 1:16-18

1. What theme is repeated in yesterday's passage in verse 15 and today's passage in verse 18?
 - a. “Brings forth” (or gives birth)
2. What does verse 16 warn against?
 - a. Do not be deceived
3. In what way are we sometimes deceived?
 - a. We think our sinful desires give and God takes away, but in reality sin births death and God gives life.
4. Who does every good and perfect gift come from (v. 17)?
 - a. “Father of lights” - God. The blessings we have in our life are not random.
5. What is the greatest gift God gave us?
 - a. Salvation – He brought us forth through the word of truth.
6. What does it mean that we are the “firstfruits of his creatures”?
 - a. We are the first ripe fruit of God's new creation. God is in the process of making all things new – first human's hearts and eventually all of creation when he makes the new heaven and earth.

Application: What are some good gifts you can praise God for during our prayer time tonight?

Day 11: Slowing Angry Lips

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What is your favorite thing to talk about?

Read James 1:19-21

1. What are the three imperatives (things we should do) (v. 19)?
 - a. Be quick to hear
 - b. Be slow to speak
 - c. Be slow to become angry
2. What is the harm of anger (v. 20)?
 - a. It does not produce the righteousness of God.
3. Next, there is negative statement and positive statement. What should we stop doing and what should we start doing (v. 21)?
 - a. Put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness
 - b. Receive with meekness the implanted word
4. What does it mean to get rid of all filthiness and rampant wickedness?
 - a. Cast away sinful behaviors
5. How has the word been implanted in you?
 - a. Parents, church, family devotions, school Bible lessons
6. What does accepting the word implanted in us do?
 - a. It saves us when we accept the truth of Jesus as our Savior.
 - b. It keeps us on the path of life so we make wise decisions.

Application:

1. Which of the three imperatives is the hardest for you?
2. What are some practical things you can do to help you stop this behavior?

Day 12: Action

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What would you feel really embarrassed to leave the house wearing?

Read James 1:22-25

1. What is the silly thing the person did in this passage involving a mirror?
 - a. They looked in the mirror and forgot what they looked like.
2. What did James compare this silly action to in our spiritual lives?
 - a. Listening to the word but not doing what it says
3. What is the perfect law?

- a. The Old Testament and New Testament – the complete teachings of God.
- 4. What is liberty?
 - a. Freedom
- 5. How can the perfect law give us liberty?
 - a. When we become a Christian we are free from the punishments of our sins.
 - b. When we let go of sinful behaviors we are free from those specific sins.
- 6. Is it enough to listen to the Bible?
 - a. No
- 7. Why not? What else is needed?
 - a. We must do what the Bible says! Remember, James may have been remembering the once painful words Jesus spoke to him in Luke 8:21 when he said, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear and do the word of God.”

Application: How can we make sure we aren’t just listening to the word but also doing it?

Day 13: Pure Religion

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What would it be like to be an orphan?

Read James 1:26-27

- 1. What does James say we are to do with our tongues (v. 26)?
 - a. Bridle his tongue
- 2. What does it usually mean to “bridle”?
 - a. Putting a rein on a horse to control it
- 3. What’s the consequence if we don’t (v. 26)?
 - a. Our religion is worthless
- 4. What is pure and faultless religion (v. 27)?
 - a. Visit orphans and widows
 - b. Keeping oneself from being polluted by the world
- 5. Why did James specifically pick orphans and widows? What do they have in common?
 - a. They are often poor, neglected, and even exploited. They can’t repay any kindness we give them.

Application: What are some specific things can we do to help someone who can’t repay our kindness?

Day 14: Prejudice

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What impresses you the most about a person?

Read James 2:1-7

1. James asks us to role-play a situation. What's the situation James asks us to imagine?
 - a. A rich man comes to church and we pay special attention to him, and a poor man comes to church and we treat him badly.
2. Give a modern day example of this situation as we might see it.
 - a. A beautiful/handsome kid comes into Sunday school wearing nice clothes, smiling, and is clearly very popular, so we pay special attention to them and are excited when they sit next to us. Another kid comes into Sunday school wearing dirty clothes and even smells bad, so we purposely don't talk to them and even scoot a little farther away when they try to sit next to us.
3. What does James say we become if we discriminate (v. 4)?
 - a. Evil judges
4. What does James say at the beginning of v. 5?
 - a. "Listen!"
5. What did God choose the poor in the eyes of the world to be (v. 5)?
 - a. To be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom
6. Who is the kingdom promised to (v. 5)?
 - a. To those who love Him
7. Why does God always choose the weak/poor over the strong/rich?
 - a. So that no one may boast (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Application:

1. How does God want you to treat the weak, poor, and unpopular when they walk into church or school?
2. If two people, one rich and popular and one poor and outcasted, come to your school, who does God want you to befriend?
 - a. Both! But pay special attention to the outcast as they are likely to be the one neglected by others.

Day 15: Mercy Triumphs

"Chairein" (ki-rain) meaning "Joy to you!"

If you were king or queen and could make a royal law, what law would you decree?

Read James 2:8-13

1. What is the royal law (v. 8)?

- a. Love your neighbor as yourself.
2. What do you think the phrase “royal law” means? (Why isn’t it just called a “plain law?”)
 - a. The most important law.
3. What does the law give us (v. 12)?
 - a. Liberty
4. How does the law give liberty?
 - a. Obeying God’s Word gives us freedom from sin. Just like a wise man who builds his house upon a rock, so we will have a strong, happy life if our foundation is obeying Jesus. We are free to live!
5. Which is more powerful: mercy or judgment (v. 13)?
 - a. Mercy
6. Why does mercy triumph over judgment?
 - a. We are accepted into heaven because of God’s mercy. He triumphs over Satan who only offers guilt, judgment, and condemnation.

Application:

1. When someone hurts you, do you offer them judgment or mercy?
2. How can you show mercy and not judgment? Give a real life example.

**Make sure each child has a pen.*

Day 16: Proof

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What does a detective need to convict a criminal? (Evidence/Proof)

What would you say if your friend told you they could jump 100 feet? (Prove it!)

Read James 2:14-19

1. What is the first phrase of v. 14 and the last phrase of v. 16?
 - a. “What good is it?”
2. What does faith always have with it?
 - a. Action – Faith is meant to do some good.
3. Look at James 2:18 and circle the words faith, works, and show. Use those three words to tell me what this verse is saying!
 - a. Faith shows works!
4. What does it mean that faith shows works?
 - a. Real faith is demonstrative. If we don’t have any signs of Christ’s Spirit in us, then he’s not living in us.

5. What do we have in common with demons (v. 19)?
 - a. We both believe that there is one God.
6. How should our beliefs be different than the demons?
 - a. We believe MORE! We believe God gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. We believe that we are loved and shown mercy, not just judgment. We believe “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:10-11)

Application: What evidence in your life demonstrates your faith?

Day 17: Belief Acts

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Charles Blondin Wheelbarrow Story - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEHv1Rcn9YQ>

(Just play first 90 seconds.)

Read James 2:20-26

1. Who are the two Old Testament figures James offers as evidence that faith must have deeds?
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Rahab
2. Who was Abraham? How did he demonstrate faith?
 - a. The Father of Israel who was willing sacrifice Isaac on the altar.
3. Who was Rahab? How did he demonstrate faith?
 - a. A prostitute who gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction.
4. What is different about these two people?
 - a. Man/Woman
 - b. Respected/Disrespected
 - c. Old/Young
5. What is similar about these two people?
 - a. They both showed their faith through their deeds.

Application: If someone observed your life for a day, would they know you were a Christian?

Day 18: Tame Tongue

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What’s something you said and then instantly regretted?

Read James 3:1-8

1. James gives three word pictures of how something small controls something large. What are the three word pictures?
 - a. Bridle controls a horse
 - b. Rudder controls a ship
 - c. Spark starts a forest fire
2. What does the tongue have the power to do (v. 6)?
 - a. Stain the whole body
3. What is the source of the tongue's fire (v. 6)?
 - a. Hell
4. What is our tongue full of (v. 8)?
 - a. Deadly poison

Application: What are some ways we can tame our tongues?

- a. Think before we speak
- b. Never speak when angry
- c. Choose to not speak when not necessary, helpful, or kind

Day 19: Salty vs. Sweet

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What's the most disgusting thing you've ever drank?

Read James 3:9-12

1. In v. 9 what two contradictory things are happening?
 - a. People are blessing God and cursing people (made in the likeness of God)
2. Why is this not OK?
 - a. Our mouths should not be blessing and cursing – that's hypocritical
3. What two examples did James give to explain that this shouldn't happen?
 - a. Springs – a spring can't make fresh and salt water
 - b. Trees – a fig tree can't make olives and a grapevine can't make figs
4. What controls what our mouths produce?
 - a. Our hearts – “for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Luke 6:45

Application:

1. What does it mean to produce “salty” words?
2. What does it mean to produce “sweet” words?
3. Is your tongue producing sweet words or bitter words?

(If time allows play “Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes” game with older kids in preparation for tomorrow’s lesson. Tie in the idea of following instructions even though you don’t understand them.)

Day 20: Understanding Wisdom

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Have you ever followed instructions even though you didn’t understand them?

Read James 3:13-18

1. What does it mean to be wise?
 - a. Knowing WHAT is the right thing to do (and doing it)
2. What does it mean to be understanding?
 - a. Know WHY we should the right thing (and doing it)
3. For example: Wisdom knows that it is wrong to become angry. Understanding knows that if we become angry constantly we will ruin our relationships with others. Now you try, with the topic of obeying you parents.
 - a. Wisdom knows obeying is the right thing to do. Understanding knows that we should obey our parents because they love us and know what’s best for us.
4. Is a wise person prideful or humble?
 - a. Humble - v. 13 meekness of wisdom. “True wisdom has a gentleness about it, doesn’t it? Harsh people are never wise people. They may be smart. They may even be right. But they are not what the Bible calls wise.” Beth Moore
5. Where do bitter jealousy and selfish ambition come from (v. 14)?
 - a. Heart
6. What is wisdom from below like (v. 15-16)?
 - a. Earthly, unspiritual, demonic, jealous, selfish, disorderly, vile
7. What is wisdom from above like (v. 17-18)?
 - a. Pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, merciful, full of good fruit, impartial, sincere

Application:

1. What can you do to grow in wisdom?
 - a. Study and obey the Bible
2. What can you do to grow in understanding?
 - a. Think and consider why God (and those in authority) are guiding you in a certain way

Day 21: Selfishness

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What's the most intense fight you've ever seen in a movie?

Read James 4:1-3

1. What causes fights among you? (v. 1)
 - a. Your passions are at war within you
2. What does it mean that "your passions are at war within you"?
 - a. You desire something and you don't get it.
3. James says, "You desire and do not have," so you do what?
 - a. So you murder
4. Have you ever murdered anyone?
 - a. No
5. Read 1 John 3:15. You are a murderer if you do what?
 - a. Hate your brother or sister
6. Have you ever hated someone?
 - a. Yes - When we hate it's like murder and we often hate because we covet what others have.
7. What are some things others get that cause you to covet and even hate?
 - a. Toys
 - b. Parents' attention
8. James goes on to say, "You do not have" because why (v. 2-3)?
 - a. Because you do not ask

OR

 - b. You ask with wrong motives
9. God wants us to ask Him for what we want, but He doesn't want us asking for things from a heart of selfishness. Let's contrast a selfish prayer and a selfless prayer.
10. What's an example of a selfish prayer?
 - a. God, please help me to get a new (toy). I really want it and my friends would think I was so cool if I had one!
11. What's an example of a selfless prayer?
 - a. God, please give me the opportunity to share the gospel with my friends at ballet or robotics club.

Application: Tonight during our prayer time, check yourself to be sure you are praying selflessly.

What are some specific things you can pray for tonight that are totally selfless?

Day 22: Who's Your Friend?

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Who’s your closest friend?

Read James 4:4-6

1. What does it mean to be adulterous people (v. 4)?
 - a. Faithful not to God alone but also friends with the world
2. What does it mean to be friends with the world (v. 4)?
 - a. It means having a warm, familiar attitude towards all that is wicked and opposed to God on this earth. It’s being on good terms with God’s enemy.
3. What does God long for (v. 5)?
 - a. Our human spirits or hearts
4. Our human spirits are weak, so what does God offer us (v. 6)?
 - a. More grace
5. How do we receive this grace (v. 6)?
 - a. Humility – recognizing we have a weak human spirit and need God’s grace to stay away from worldly temptations

Application:

1. Is there something in the world that is drawing you away from God? If so, what?
2. What can do to stay away from this temptation?

**Make sure each child has a piece of paper and pen!*

Day 23: Who’s Your Friend?

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What does it mean to be friends with someone?

Read James 4:7-8

1. What are the five commands in verses 7 and 8?
 - a. Submit to God
 - b. Resist the devil
 - c. Come near to God
 - d. Wash your hands
 - e. Purify your hearts
2. Draw a diagram with the words “Devil” on the far left hand side and “God” on the far right. Put your name in the middle. Leave plenty of room between your name and theirs. Next, draw a long arrow on each side of your name, pointing toward each of those forces.

Devil ← Rachel → God

We can't stay in the middle. We can't have one foot on God's side of the center and the other foot on Satan's.

3. What does James mean when he says, "Purify your hearts, you double-minded people!"
 - a. Make up your mind and figure out who you're going to follow after. (Similar to Elijah confronting the people about worshiping God or Baal in 1 Kings 18:21.)
 - b. With that in mind, go back to your diagram and draw a question mark over each arrow to remind you to ask yourself which direction you want to go.

? ?
Devil ← Rachel → God

4. When we resist God, who are we coming near?
 - a. Devil – SCARY!
5. How do we resist the devil?
 - a. By coming near to God in full submission
 - b. Recognize we need God 1st for salvation and 2nd for daily life
 - c. Draw a cross over your name and recognize that if you are a believer then the Devil can't have you! The Holy Spirit will help you resist the Devil.
6. Under your name write some challenges you face each day. Write the actions that would draw you towards the Devil versus the action that would draw you towards God.

? ?
Devil ← Rachel → God

Anger vs. Patience

Facebook vs. Using Time Wisely

Application: Tomorrow will you draw close to the Devil or God? Will you be a friend of God or the Devil?

Day 24: Repentance

"Chairein" (ki-rain) meaning "Joy to you!"

When's the last time you cried? Why?

Read James 4:8-10

1. What does it mean to wash your hands and purify your hearts?
 - a. Repent of your sin – just like washing mud off dirty hands
2. Why does James tell us to "mourn and weep"? (Especially after telling us to consider it joy when we face trials in chapter 1.)

- a. We need to truly be heartbroken over our sins. When we recognize our sin then we should truly grieve and cry.
3. What does it mean to “humble yourself before the Lord” (v. 10)?
 - a. To come to God with a broke and repentant heart.
4. If we come to God with a broken and repentant heart, then what will He do (v. 10)?
 - a. Lift you up
5. What does it meant that God will “lift you up”?
 - a. God will forgive us and cover us with His grace. God desires to give us more grace (v. 6), but we must come to Him in humility.

Application: What is a sin area in your life that you need to be more heartbroken over?

Day 25: Judging

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Would you like to be a judge in a courtroom? Why or why not? (Help kids see it would be challenging to be in charge of deciding the truth about people’s actions and motives.)

Read James 4:11-12

1. What is the command given in verse 11?
 - a. Do not speak evil against one another
2. What does it mean to speak evil against one another?
 - a. To say mean things about someone to someone else
3. Review – look back at James 2:8. What was the royal law?
 - a. To love your neighbor as yourself
4. What does it mean to judge others?
 - a. It means to cast judgment on their behavior. It means to say to yourself, “They are sinful! They shouldn’t have done that!”
 - b. There is a difference between someone doing something blatantly sinful and not thinking someone made the right choice in a certain situation. There’s a fine line between wise discernment and sinful judging.
5. Who is the only one who has the right to judge others?
 - a. God
6. Who alone knows what motivates others?
 - a. God

Application:

1. What are some situations where we are tempted to judge others’ hearts?

- a. She didn't really mean that apology.
 - b. She didn't feel sick. She was just being lazy.
 - c. He didn't really do it on accident. He stepped on my foot on purpose.
 - d. He purposefully didn't invite me just to hurt my feelings.
2. Will you commit today to always choose to think the best of others and leave the judging to God alone?

**Have a squirt water bottle ready for question 3!*

Day 26: Flexible Plans

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What's a day that you had nothing special planned, but something really fun occurred? What's a fun day you had planned that was suddenly thwarted?

Read James 4:13-17

1. Is it bad to make plans of any kind?
 - a. No, but we must keep in mind verse 14
2. What does the beginning of verse 14 remind us of?
 - a. We don't know what tomorrow will bring.
3. What does James compare us to at the end of verse 14?
 - a. We are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (Squirt the water bottle to demonstrate.)
4. What does this illustration teach us?
 - a. Life is short.
5. What should our attitude towards the future be according to verse 15?
 - a. “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” Every new day is willed by God. God is the one with the real plan.

Application:

1. When your plans are thwarted what kind of attitude do you have?
 - a. God wants us to have a flexible spirit that is willing to change our plans and know God has the ultimate plan for our lives.

Day 27: Treasure

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

When you hear the word “treasure” what comes to mind? (Gold, rubies, treasure chest with coins, etc.)

What do you treasure the most?

Read James 5:1-6

1. What are the two personifications, when James gives inanimate objects humanlike attributes?
 - a. Gold and silver will eat your flesh
 - b. Wages you kept back are crying out
2. Why will the gold and silver eat your flesh (v.3)?
 - a. You have hoarded/laid up treasure.
3. Why will the wages you kept back cry out (v. 4)?
 - a. You have robbed your workers.
4. As a child you can't rob your workers, but you can hoard treasure. What does it mean to lay up treasure in your life?
 - a. Keep toys you don't play with or need.
 - b. Keep clothes you rarely wear or don't need.
 - c. Only spend money you receive on yourself.
5. What should response be if we realize we are hoarding (v. 1)?
 - a. Weep and howl
6. Why should we weep and howl?
 - a. James 4:9-10 – Repentance

Read Matthew 6:19-24

7. When we store up treasures on earth, who do we demonstrate that we are allegiant to (v. 4)?
 - a. The world

Application: How can you make sure you aren't "laying up treasures on earth?"

- a. When you get a new toy, give another one away.
- b. When you get a new outfit, give another one away.
- c. Set aside some of your money to give to others.

Day 28: Patience

"Chairein" (ki-rain) meaning "Joy to you!"

When is a time you found it very difficult to be patient?

Read James 5:7-9

1. What is the example of patience that James gives?
 - a. A farmer waiting for the fruit of the earth
2. What are we supposed to wait patiently for (v. 7-8)?
 - a. The coming of the Lord
3. After telling us to be patient, what does James instruct us not to do (v. 9)?

- a. Grumble against one another
4. How are patience and grumbling opposites?
 - a. If we are truly being patient for God to produce good fruit in someone's life then we won't grumble when they make mistakes.
5. What does James say will happen to us if we grumble about others (v. 9)?
 - a. We will be judged

Read Matthew 7:1-5

6. How does Jesus say we will be judged if we judge others?
 - a. We will be judged in the same way we judge others.
7. Why is judging often hypocritical?
 - a. We need to be careful because sometimes we have a log in our own eyes and are judging the small splinter in our brother's eye. We are committing a sin by judging someone else's sin.

Application:

1. Do you grumble against other people?
2. How does God view them?
3. How can you work on viewing others the same way God sees them?

**Print below fill in the blank verse cards!*

Day 29: Trials

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

What's the worst thing that's ever happened to you?

Read James 5:10-11

1. Who is given as an example in James 5:10-11?
 - a. Job
2. What is he an example of?
 - a. Steadfastness (or perseverance)

Read Job 1:8-12

3. What question does the Lord ask Satan in verse 8?
 - a. Have you considered my servant Job?
4. How did the Lord describe Job in verse 8?
 - a. None like him, blameless, upright, fears God, turns from evil
5. What challenge did Satan give God (vs. 10-11)?
 - a. You've been protecting Job, let me hurt him and he will curse you.

6. Let's read the trials Job faced:

Read Job 1:13-17

- a. Lost Wealth – Job lost his flocks - sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys.

Read Job 1:18-19

- b. Lost Children – Job's 7 sons and 3 daughters died (v. 2)

Read Job 2:3-7

- c. Lost Health – Job was inflicted with sores all over his body.

Read Job 22:1, 5-9

- d. Lost Friends/Reputation – Job's friends accused him of being sinful and deserving his trials.

Read Job 42:1-6

7. What was Job's response - ultimately?

- a. God, You are in charge of my life, not me.

Child #1, fill in the blanks of Job 42:5.

_____ had _____ of you by the hearing of
the ear, but now my eye _____ you.

Job 42:5

Child #2, fill in the blanks of James 5:11.

_____ have _____ of the steadfastness of
Job, and you have _____ the purpose of the
Lord. James 5:11

8. Compare your verse sheets. What are the two corresponding words?

- a. Heard

- b. Seen
- 9. What two words are different?
 - a. I
 - b. You
- 10. Why do you think James shifted the thought from “I” to “you”?
 - a. When God allows suffering in His faithful children’s lives it’s not only because He desires to bring about fruit in His children but also because He desires others to see so they can grow as well.

Read Job 42:7-17

- 11. How does the story of Job end?
 - a. Job’s wealth, children, health, and status were all restored.
- 12. Does God always restore the things we lose during our lives?
 - a. No

Application: When you experience suffering do you accept God’s will or fight Him internally?

Day 30: Yes and No

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Have you ever made a promise you swore to keep?

Read James 5:12

- 1. In the context of James 5:12, what does it mean to swear?
 - a. To firm up your “yes” with a special promise that you really mean it. (Example: “I swear I’m telling the truth that I saw a snake slither into the playground.”)
- 2. If someone is “swearing” what are they really saying about themselves?
 - a. I promise that I’m telling the truth this time, but without me swearing I could be telling a lie.
- 3. Does swearing ultimately make you trust someone more or less?
 - a. Ultimately it causes you to trust the person less because it indicates they aren’t truly a trustworthy person.
- 4. What does it mean to let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no?
 - a. Just say what you mean. Be honest. Don’t try to make your answer stronger by swearing it.

Application: Will you make a decision today to leave “I swear to God” or even just “I swear” completely out of your vocabulary?

Day 31: What to do?

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

When’s a time when you did not know what to do?

Read James 5:13-18

1. In verses 13-14, James lists people in one of three conditions. What are each of the conditions and what is each person to do?
 - a. Suffering → Pray
 - b. Cheerful → Sing praise
 - c. Sick → Call for the elders to pray
2. Why should those who are suffering pray?
 - a. God wants us to come to Him with our problems and requests.
3. Why should those who are cheerful sing praise?
 - a. To remind ourselves that our joy and good gifts are from God
4. Why should those who are sick call for the elders to pray?
 - a. God wants us to ask other people to pray for us when we’re struggling.
5. How many times is the word “pray” or “prayer” mentioned in verses 13-16?
 - a. Five
6. What does this tell you about prayer?
 - a. It is important.
7. Will every sick person who is prayed for by elders be healed?
 - a. No – God alone determines if a person will be healed but He wants us to pray in faith that He can do it.
 - b. Also, it’s important to note that the faith lies in the elders, not in the sick person (about whose faith nothing is said). The elders’ faith is critical: If the prayer is not answered and blame is to be cast (not that it should) then the elders, not the sick person, would bear the blame.
8. What example did James give of a person with effective prayers (v. 17)?
 - a. Elijah

Application:

1. Are you suffering? What should you do?
2. Are you cheerful? What should you do?
3. Are you sick? What should you do?

God wants us to turn to Him in every phase of life whether it’s a time of suffering or joy.

Day 32: Bring Him Back

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Is there a time you remember almost getting really hurt? What happened?

Read James 5:19-20

1. What does it mean for someone to wander from the truth?
 - a. To turn to the right or left of the narrow path of obedience to God’s Word
2. What does God want to do when someone we know is wandering from the truth (v. 19)?
 - a. Bring him back.

Read Matthew 18:15-17

3. What are the steps Jesus gives to bringing someone back (specifically if they have sinned against us)?
 - a. Go talk to the person alone
 - b. Take 1-2 people along with you to confront them
 - c. Tell the church
 - d. Cast him out of the church
4. What does James remind us we are doing when we bring someone back on the right path?
 - a. We are saving their soul from death and further sinning

Application

1. When you see someone sinning, do you handle it the right way?
2. What are the steps you should follow when you notice someone sinning?
 - a. Tell your sibling or friend their fault privately, one on one.
 - i. In our home or at school if someone is bothering you in some way ask them to “Stop” as step 1. You need to kindly stand up for yourself.
 - b. If they do not listen, take 1-2 others along with you to confront the person so they realize this is serious and others notice their problem too.
 - i. In our home and school this often looks like a “final warning” meaning, “If you don’t stop this action, then I’m going to get a parent or teacher involved.”
 - c. If he refuses to listen to 2-3 of you, tell it to the church leaders.
 - i. In our home or at school if someone doesn’t stop bothering you then get a parent or teacher, who are the leaders of the home or school.

Day 33: Big Picture

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

Before you write an important paper, what do you do? (Plan, Research, Make Outline, etc.)

Watch Summary Video: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/james/>

1. What was the name of the author of the book of James?
 - a. Jacob (Iakobos in Greek)
 - b. In the 14th century, John Wycliffe made the first Bible translation into English and translated Jacobs as James. (However, in both the Old and New Testaments he arbitrarily used the name Jacob for the patriarch). In all future English translations the name stuck, especially after 1611, when King James I sponsored the translation then called the Authorized Version but since 1797 called the King James Bible.
2. James was the leader of what church?
 - a. The church of Jewish Christians in Jerusalem – the first Christian community ever!
3. Did James carefully plan what he wrote?
 - a. Yes, chapter 1 is a summary of what's to come, and then he carefully drew other portions of Scripture to write his book
4. What other portions of Scripture most influenced Jacob as he wrote the book of James?
 - a. Proverbs
 - b. Jesus's Sermon the Mount
5. How did James die?
 - a. He was martyred – sources tell us by being stoned to death.

Application: What do you think are some of the wisest things taught in the book of James? How should these teachings change your life?

Day 34: Letter / Conclusion

“Chairein” (ki-rain) meaning “Joy to you!”

How do you feel when you get a letter in the mail or an email in your inbox?

1. What type of literature is the book of James (story, poem, letter, etc.)?
 - a. Letter
2. When you read a letter, do you normally read it in segments or all at once?
 - a. All at once.
 - b. Over the past few weeks we've studied the book of James in segments, so tonight we're going to read the entire book of James all at once so we can get the feel for reading it like a letter.

Read James 1-5

Application: What are some things you want to do differently in your life after studying the book of James?

- a. I want to count it all joy when I face suffering.
- b. I want to be careful what I say with my tongue.
- c. I want to ask God for wisdom when I don't know what to do.
- d. I want to be careful not to become a hoarder and be sure I'm giving to the poor.
- e. When cheerful, I want to sing songs of rejoicing to God.