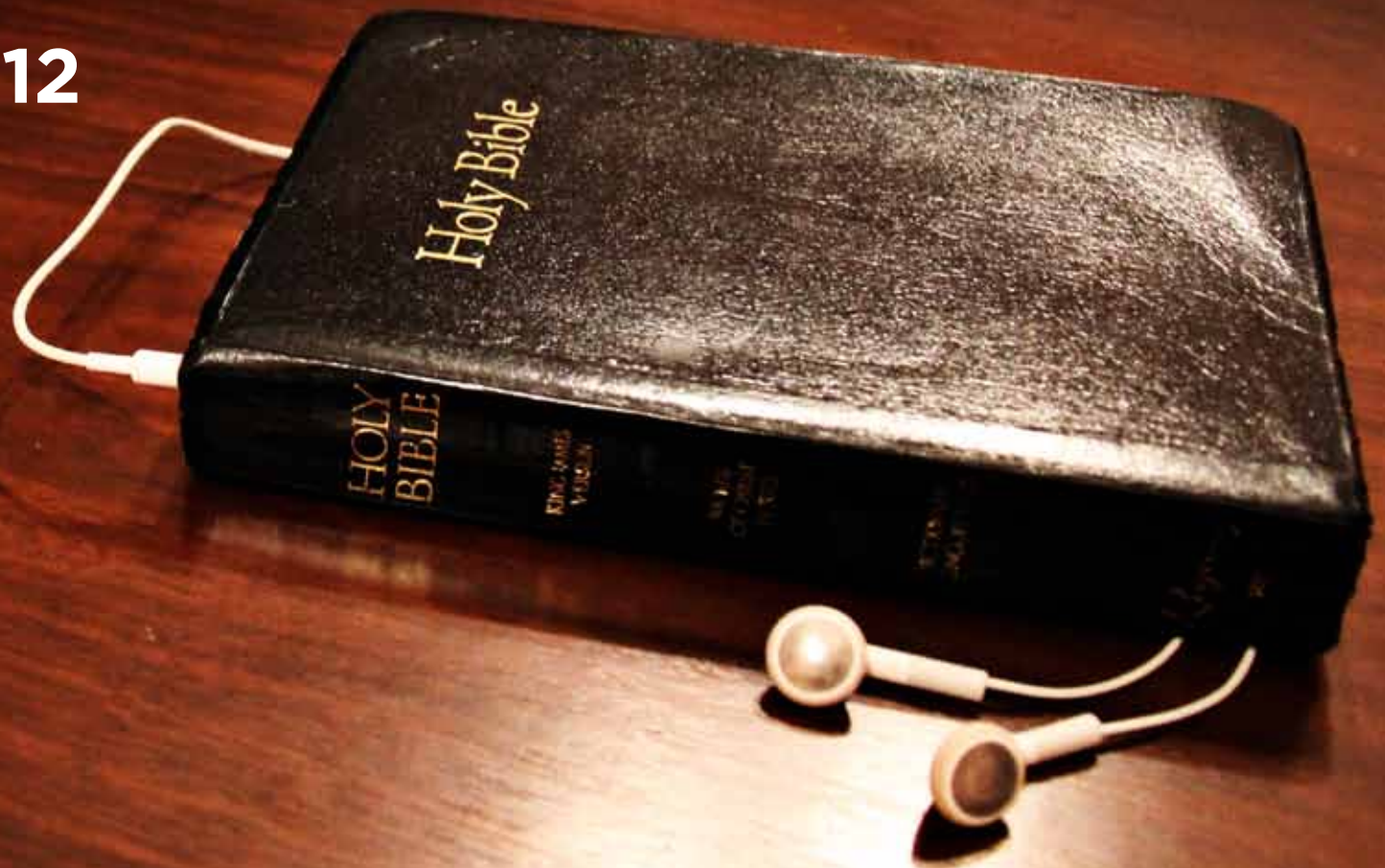


JAMES

LISTEN 2 LIVE

StudyWeek2012



STUDYWEEK2012

The James Notes: Introduction

Welcome to the Study Week 2012 study guide!

James is an exciting epistle full of practical advice for daily living, and we are very pleased to be able to share this dynamic and very relevant epistle with you all. We hope you will enjoy working through these notes as much as we have enjoyed putting them together.

Although James is one of the shorter letters in the New Testament, it is no less attention grabbing. Right from the beginning **it is clear it is written by a man who is passionate for the Truth**. He writes with authority and power, but never lacks the gentle tone to help those who might be struggling. This is a man who lives what he believes, who is challenging his readers to make their faith come alive in action.

James wrote to early first-century believers, when the ecclesia was still in its infancy. Despite this, we will quickly discover that **the issues that arose to those people are no different to what we will face today**. He shows new believers how to deal with trials in their life, and how a positive outlook on them can encourage us to grow from them. He teaches us the source of sin, how to avoid temptation, and to keep ourselves from evil. He illustrates the need for our faith to be shown through actions. And we are taught the power of prayer, how it truly can change our relationship with our God.

This year, the notes are focused more on getting a solid overview of the message of James, and pulling out some practical lessons for our lives. To achieve this we have focused **more on careful reading of the verses** in James, **and less on lengthy explanations or looking up Greek passages**. We do however still encourage this. As you work through the notes, you will discover consistent and regular usage of:

- > **simple questions** about the text, to help you think about what is being said
- > **boxes to copy out a verse** and then comment on the meaning
- > **comparisons of verses and concepts** found elsewhere in the scripture
- > **practical lessons** from James applied in our daily lives
- > **activities** to be undertaken with other young people in your ecclesia or circle of friends
- > **Bible marking** exercises to be copied in to your margin and preserved

As a result, the notes do not cover the letter in the same level of depth as might typically be expected. **The chief purpose is to give the reader a clear and simple overview of James the man, the letter he wrote, and how it applies to us today.** Further detail and exposition can be raised in the workshop sessions leading up to Study Week 2012, and the discussion groups during the week itself.

Finally, **a range of more detailed resources will be available on the website** for those who wish to undertake further study of their own. Amongst these will be notes by Bro John Martin and the Workbook from the 2010 New Zealand Youth Conference, also based around the Epistle of James.

We seek our Heavenly Father's blessing on you as you work through the notes, and look forward to seeing you at Study Week so we can share the things we have learned together.

With love in the faith,

The Study Week 2012 Notes Committee

Study Week 2012: Study Tips

The following tips are a few ideas to take into consideration as you sit down to work through the notes. When we first start Bible Study, the answers don't always come straight away. God has specifically created His Word in such a way as to make us seek out the answers. Proverbs 25:2 says "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter".

Here are some tips to help you work through the notes, and any further study you wish to undertake:

> **Always begin Bible study with prayer.** The book we have opened before us is God's own Word revealed to us; it is a privilege to be able to come to know Him and His son.

> **Set aside a specific time** for study each week when you won't be disturbed. You don't need to study for hours; short periods are good too. Whatever spare time you have, make the most of it!

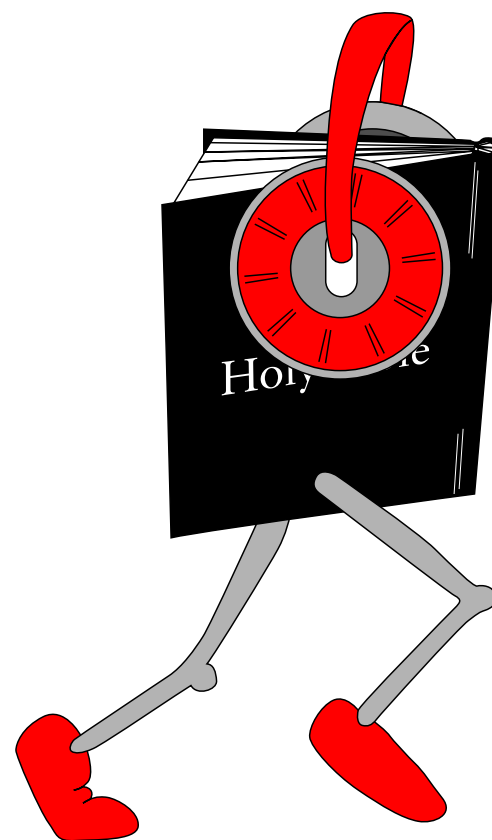
> **Have a specific place** where you do your study. Preferably choose a permanent quiet place away from any distractions. Turn off your mobile phone!

> **The secret to good Bible study is careful reading.** Before you begin, take the time to read the whole letter in one sitting – it isn't long and is worthwhile reading it in one go. Read it as though James has written this to you personally. What is he trying to get across to you? How do his words compare to your life as you are living it today? Throughout your study, take the time to read through the letter entirely. Read it out loud, slowly, and with careful emphasis.

> **Use different versions** like the Rotherham's, RSV, NIV and the Diaglott, to get a different perspective of the verse.

> **Mark up your Bible.** A well-known marking system uses different coloured pens to highlight various notes - analysis in blue, comments in black, references in red, reference numbers to the text in green. Ask experienced brothers and sisters how they mark up their Bibles and choose a method that suits you. It doesn't matter what method you use! What does matter is that you can understand what you have written.

> **Above, all, ask yourself how it applies to you.** What lessons are there which will change your daily life? Write these lessons down so you don't forget them! This is the whole purpose of study – to become more like God, to allow His word to change your daily life. Therefore, in the words of James: "receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls" (Jam 1:21).



**LISTEN
LIVE**

STUDY WEEK 2012

James Background



One: Which James Are We Talking About?

What does James 1:1 tell us about this letter and its background? Write down any questions you may have. Looking in your margin might be a good start!

Who was James? Have a look at the following verses to see who the possible author of this letter was.

Matt 4:21

Matt 10:3

Mark 15:40 cp John 19:25

Matt 13:55; Gal 1:19

1
**WHICH JAMES?
PROBABLY THE BROTHER
OF OUR LORD**



Now compare these verses to see the amazing connection between James' letter and a speech given by James the Lord's brother. Read the Acts verses and write down the matching phrase.

JAMES' LETTER

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (JAMES' SPEECHS AND ECCESIAL LETTER)

1:1 - "greeting"

Acts 15:23

(Greek work "wisheth joy" appears in only two places, one of these being Acts 15)

1:16,19; 2:5 - "beloved"

Acts 15:25

(only other appearance of this Greek word is in Acts 15)

2:5 - "hearken my brethren"

Acts 15:13

(no other letter uses this introduction)

2:7, 5:10,14 - "the name"

Acts 15:14,17,26

(James' emphasis on the name)

5:19-20 - "converteth"

Acts 15:19

(Greek word "to turn", used twice in this letter)

There are many similarities in this letter with a speech that is only 230 words long!

We are not specifically told, but scripture seems to imply this James was the Lord's brother. For more information on this, please see the resource page on the website.

Two: Growing Up With Your Brother, Jesus Christ

What was James really like? Time for some Bible marking! Colour in the following phrases from the Gospel of Luke:

2:21	"eight days were accomplished"
2:22	"according to the Law of Moses"
2:23	"as it is written in the Law"
2:24	"in the Law"
2:27	"after the custom of the Law"
2:39	"they had performed all things according to the Law"
2:41	"every year at the feast of the Passover"
2:42	"after the custom of the feast"

1
**WHICH JAMES?
PROBABLY THE BROTHER
OF OUR LORD**

2
**GROWING UP WITH JESUS CHRIST
CHALLENGING
YOUR DAILY LIFE**



What does this tell us about his family and how he was brought up?

Read Matt 12:46-50; 13:54-58. What would it have been like to grow up with Jesus Christ as your older brother? Write down some of your thoughts and how it would have impacted your daily life. Use your imagination!

Two: Growing Up With Your Brother, Jesus Christ

But what did James and his siblings really think of their brother? Have a look at the following verses and fill in the gaps. For some, fill in the missing verse.

John 2:

They were present with him at the start of his ministry

Psa 69:8-9

John 7:

They confronted him over his apparent hypocrisy – they wanted him to stop talking about the coming Kingdom, and just get on with setting it up

Mark 3:21

Luke 8:19-21

Mark 6:

Jesus knew they would reject him



1

WHICH JAMES?
PROBABLY THE BROTHER
OF OUR LORD

2

GROWING UP WITH JESUS CHRIST
CHALLENGING
YOUR DAILY LIFE

3

A LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCE
MEETING THE RISEN LORD

Three: A Life-Changing Experience

James undergoes a major change in his life – use the following boxes to see this transformation and write down the changes.

During Christ's life

John 7:2-9

John 19:25-27

Probably not present at the crucifixion

After the Resurrection

1 Cor 15:7

First Century Believers

Acts 1:14

Gal 2:9,12

Acts 15:12-13



Four: From Faithless Brother To Ecclesial Leader

Now for some Bible marking! Find a clear spot around James chapter 1 and mark in the following box. Look up the verses to see how important James becomes in the early ecclesia.

After conversion, Paul visits ONLY Peter and James

Gal 1:18-19

Along with Peter and John, James is described as “a pillar of the ecclesia”

Gal 2:9,12

Peter singles out James as one to tell when he is released from prison

Acts 12:17

Presides over the Jerusalem Conference and delivers the final judgment

Acts 15:13,19

The person to whom Paul sends his missionary reports

Acts 21:18

Mentioned in his younger brother’s letter as a point of reference

Jude 1

His authority and name sometimes misused

Gal 2:12

1

WHICH JAMES?
PROBABLY THE BROTHER
OF OUR LORD

2

GROWING UP WITH JESUS CHRIST
CHALLENGING
YOUR DAILY LIFE

3

A LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCE
MEETING THE RISEN LORD

Five: Dealing With The Issues

This letter was probably written around AD 44-46, making it the first New Testament letter.

Why was it written? Using the verses provided, summarise each section/theme to see the main lessons in the letter.

Dealing with _____ (1:2-4)

Helping with both the _____ and the _____ (1:9-11)

Matching _____ with _____ (2:14-26)

Warning against misuse of the _____ (3:2-12)

Dealing with _____ and strife (3:13-4:3)

Encouraging the use of _____ in everyday _____ (5:13-18)

These are all practical issues to help in ecclesia and daily life – we are no different today!

4
BECOMING A LEADER
AN EARLY PILLAR OF THE
ECCLESIA

5
DEALING WITH THE ISSUES
PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR
BELIEVERS



BACKGROUND RECAP

WHICH JAMES?
PROBABLY THE BROTHER
OF OUR LORD

A LIFE-CHANGING
EXPERIENCE
MEETING THE RISEN LORD

GROWING UP WITH JESUS CHRIST
CHALLENGING
YOUR DAILY LIFE

BECOMING A LEADER
AN EARLY PILLAR OF THE
ECCLESIA

DEALING WITH THE ISSUES
PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR
BELIEVERS

