



the **book** *of*
james
a blueprint for faith

DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

QUEEN CITY CHURCH

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO:

full name

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how to S.O.A.P

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH DAY:

- bible
- a pen
- journal

S – SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

Which verse stood out to you?

O – OBSERVATION

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

What is God saying to you?

A – APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

How can you apply it today?

P – PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.



week
one

day 02

week one

today's date

monday 6.3.19

today's scripture

james 1:1-4

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

monday 6.3.19

today's scripture

james 1:1-4

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

When we read verses like these, the truth that they communicate can often be counterintuitive. How do we have joy when we “face trials of many kinds?” The first place to start is to distinguish that there is a difference between happiness and biblical joy that comes from God. Happiness is a feeling that is directly impacted by our external circumstances. When life is trending upward we experience happiness, but when things aren’t going well, when troubles come our way, when things are hard, that feeling of happiness can disappear quickly. Joy, on the other hand, is so much more than a feeling. Joy is a deep knowing that God is in control of whatever we may be going through, and not only is he in control of it, but He is good. Joy is a choice. Joy is something we can choose every day, no matter what we’re going through. When life throws troubles our way we don’t have to be tossed around and controlled by our circumstances. We can choose joy in the middle of whatever we’re going through because we know that God is good, faithful, and is there with us in the middle of our storm. As we consistently choose joy, our faith becomes perfected as the troubles we go through shape our character, so we look more and more like Jesus.

prayer points:

- Make the decision as you pray today to choose joy no matter what your feelings might be telling you.
- Ask that God would shape your character through whatever you may be going through.

NOTES:

day 03

week one

<i>today's date</i> tuesday 6.4.19	<i>today's scripture</i> james 1:5-8
<i>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</i>	

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

tuesday 6.4.19

today's scripture

james 1:5-8

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

I love how God constantly reveals His character throughout the Bible and this passage of scripture is no exception. God is telling us that He wants to give us the wisdom to make the right decisions. All we have to do is ask! However simple that may seem, there are two challenges presented in these verses that some of us may run up against. First, is the challenge of asking. Maybe you've grown up having to depend on yourself and your natural response in relationships is being independent. Others may find themselves willing to reach out to God but struggle with having the confidence that He will really come through on His promise. Rest assured that God is who He says He is. God makes us a promise in this scripture that He will give us wisdom if we ask—we just have to initiate the ask and believe that He is faithful to respond like He says He will!

prayer points:

- Ask** - Take a moment today and ask God for wisdom. This wisdom will help us when we need to have those difficult conversations, navigate our relationships, parent our children, pursue our dreams, and make decisions that honor God.
- Believe** - Now that you've made a request to God, believe deep down in your heart that He can and will respond to you!

NOTES:

day 04

week one

today's date

wednesday 6.5.19

today's scripture

james 1:9-15

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

The book of James is full of practical ways and commands of how to live a life of holiness like Jesus. He talks about how we all have struggles and trials in our lives and gives us practical ways to deal with them. When going through these hardships, we often look for ways to solve them on our own. For instance, it is easy to be tempted to think or say, "If only I had this amount of money then I could do this" or "I would be much better off if I had all these things." James is saying material things fade away and do not give real healing or bring solutions to our problems. In reality, rich or poor, we will always have trials and struggles. But take heart, Jesus has overcome the world. Notice that it says "take pride" in both circumstances. Be content in where you are in your situation rather than worrying about where you could be. God wants to use you in the circumstances you are in, but you will miss out on what God has for you if you are not present in where you are. We often do not feel blessed when going through hardships, but in reference to James 1:2-4 it says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Having joy during our trials does not come from our own will power. It comes from turning to God and being completely dependent on Him through the struggle. Those who do this and persevere through these trials will have the "Crown of Life". Finally, it says we are tempted by our own desires. Often we tend to blame God for our struggles and temptations, but rather it is by our own desires and sinful nature. Know that we are all in desperate need of God because we alone cannot be trusted.

prayer points:

- Begin prayer thanking God for being with you in your circumstances

- Pray that God will give you wisdom in your trials and tell Him that He has full control over whatever struggle you are facing

NOTES:

day 05

week one

today's date

thursday 6.6.19

today's scripture

james 1:16-21

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

<i>today's date</i> thursday 6.6.19	<i>today's scripture</i> james 1:16-21
daily devotional & prayer	

devotional:

In these passages, James is showing us that every good thing comes from God, and that in order to live a fruitful life we must cling to the truth of His word. When we accept and build our lives on God's word, we begin to look more like Jesus, and everything good in our lives will flow from that new identity. The more time we spend with Him, and the more we read His Word, the better we become.

God's word can truly transform our lives. It makes our jobs better, our families better, and even how we treat other people better. When we live our lives according to his word, everything gets better and better. When we fix our eyes on God and get closer to him, we then have access to the abundant life God has designed for us.

prayer points:

- Pray for a closer relationship with God.
- Pray that His word begins to transform your life.
- Pray for wisdom and revelation from God's word.

NOTES:

day 06

week one

today's date

friday 6.7.19

today's scripture

james 1:22-27

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 06

week one

today's date

friday 6.7.19

today's scripture

james 1:22-27

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

These verses get to the pure heart of what it should look like to follow Jesus. They also point out the legalistic take on religion that many people get caught up in, and also bogged down by. I'd like to think the author is more eloquently saying, "You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?"

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (v.22)

In bible times, it was common for people to hear a teacher. If you followed the teacher and tried to practice what they said, you were called a disciple. Jesus is looking for disciples - **doers**, not just **hearers**. Taking comfort in the fact you have heard God's word when you haven't put it into practice is not producing any good in your life, and you are deceiving yourself in the process.

In verses 26-27, James shares that religion is worthless if it does not translate into the way you live and treat others. A real walk with God shows itself in simple, practical ways: It helps the needy and keeps itself from the world's corruption.

Be encouraged to lean into this passage today and challenge yourself to truly pick up your cross, and be a disciple of Jesus. **He wants the best life for us, a life that will produce fruit** which requires not just hearing what He says, but also doing what He says.

prayer points:

- Pray & ask God to reveal any areas of your life hindering your growth in Him by simply hearing and not doing.
- Pray & ask God for the courage and boldness to live out the pure walk with Jesus noted in verse 27.

NOTES:

day 07

week one

today's date

saturday 6.8.19

today's scripture

james 2:1-4

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 07

week one

today's date

saturday 6.8.19

today's scripture

james 2:1-4

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

As followers of Jesus it is important that we, "show no partiality." Holding onto our faith in Jesus in our everyday life, outside of Sunday's, includes showing no favoritism and seeing others equally. Even if a man or woman appears to hold more value on the surface, we are called to love and serve **EACH PERSON** equally. We carry the message of Jesus! Jesus does not want us to judge others by their appearance, but He desires for us to see others as He saw us. Let this scripture encourage you and use the prayer focus below to allow God to change the way you see all people. If they are wealthy with fine clothing or poor with shabby clothing, know that Jesus paid a high price for them not to be judged but for them to be loved. Show no partiality!

prayer points:

- Pray that God would soften our hearts for His people and that we would see people the way Jesus saw them, not how the world does.
- Pray that God would give us opportunity to love His people and to show them that they are not judged but unconditionally valued and loved.

NOTES:

week
two

day 09

week two

today's date

monday 6.10.19

today's scripture

james 2:5-7

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

After reading those verses, you might wonder if rich = bad and poor = good, but these verses do not indicate all poor people are rich in faith, just as much as it does not specify all rich people are not. Refer to the end of verse 5 for clarification – “promised those who love him.” Whether you are rich or poor, the real self-examination we are challenged with is whether you love God and are dependent on Him. Perhaps the poor stereotypically tend to show more dependence on God because they have an unrelenting need that may seem out of their hands. What we can conclude from these verses is, rich or poor, those that need *Him* are blessed. This message also prompts us to assess the symptoms of our underlying motives. If we are fully dependent on God, identifying Him as Lord, but let our own selfish ambitions dictate our actions, is He really Lord? Are your riches a result of a need to provide for yourself or is your security in Him? Are you self-promoting or hoping to benefit from association with the rich? Are you avoiding an obligation to the poor? Whatever the case may be, let this message challenge you to take a leap of faith in your dependence on God.

You can trust Him. He will never fail you.

prayer points:

- Pray the Holy Spirit would provide opportunities for you to see your natural tendencies as they pertain to the matters of this passage and that it would open your eyes to your motives
- Pray your heart would overflow in love for others as a result of your love for God
- Pray for ways to evaluate where you can lean into His love and grow your dependence on Him

NOTES:

day 10

week two

<p>today's date tuesday 6.11.19</p>	<p>today's scripture james 2:8-12</p>
<p><i>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</i></p>	

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

tuesday 6.11.19

today's scripture

james 2:8-12

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

In this passage James gives a call to integrity and starts out by quoting one of the greatest commandments: to love others as ourselves. The best way to reflect God in our lives is to invite him into everything that we do; meaning we can't afford to pick and choose which neighbor (co-worker, professor, in-law, sibling, etc) we decide to love as ourselves. The reality is that all of us can probably say that we have done this a time or two. What's more, James then reminds us that if we have broken one law, we are just as guilty as someone who breaks all the laws. James' directness can appear condemning because it begs the question "Who could possibly keep the law perfectly?" The truth is no one, except Jesus.

The good news for us is that he did exactly that on our behalf. So when we read the verse about being judged by the law, it may be natural for us to attempt to even the "scales of justice" by comparing our good deeds against our poor choices. But here's the thing when it comes to Jesus: He offers unmeasured grace, and grace removes these scales. Not because of what we have done, but because of Jesus' perfect fulfillment of the law. This is how the same law that we cannot keep, is the same law that can set us free (v. 12).

prayer points:

- Ask God to highlight any places where you have tried to pick and choose who to love.

- Ask God if there are any areas where you are trying to even the "scales of justice". If so, ask Him to help you receive the free grace of Jesus.

NOTES:

day 11

week two

today's date

wednesday 6.12.19

today's scripture

james 2:14-20

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 11

week two

today's date

wednesday 6.12.19

today's scripture

james 2:14-20

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

There have been discussions about Paul and James regarding a disagreement in dealing with faith and works, but in reality, they go hand in hand. Faith without deeds is dead, but deeds without faith is worthless.

Are we truly living the life God has planned for us if we keep to ourselves and don't go out and do what God has asked us to do? On the other hand, are we really caring for that person if we are willing to help them and give them food, but aren't doing it in Jesus' name and not willing to share the Good News of salvation?

After all, the Earth is not the goal or our final resting place. We are citizens of Heaven and we want as many people as possible to experience the abundant life God offers us! Deeds are a way for us to show and share our faith, opening the door for talking to other people about the transformation that has happened within us. When we share and do these things in Jesus' name, you will find that your life is better and you are more fulfilled than ever before!

This could manifest in different ways! God has given all of us gifts and talents that we can use to make a difference. At our church, we have many different outlets for people to make a difference! This is the heart of what we call the Dream Team! If you have a passion for the homeless community, you could serve on the Outreach Team and change lives by serving with no strings attached. If you have a heart for the next generation, you could serve on the Kids' Team and impact the lives of children so that they grow up not having to get it wrong before they can get it right. You could serve as a Small Group Leader and help disciple and bring people closer to God. There are many opportunities for you to express your faith through works. This expression brings both fulfillment to your life and impacts the environment you find yourself in.

prayer points:

- Thank God saving us through faith alone
- Ask God to help identify your gifts and passions
- Prayer for ways and opportunities to use the gifts and passions

NOTES:

day 12

week two

today's date

thursday 6.13.19

today's scripture

james 2:16-26

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 12

week two

today's date

thursday 6.13.19

today's scripture

james 2:16-26

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

After reading this passage, you might be thinking, "Hold on, I thought good deeds don't get us to Heaven..." And you would be correct. We cannot earn our salvation by serving God. Refer to Ephesians 2:8, where Paul says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." He explicitly states that we are saved through faith alone. What James is saying, however, is that our good deeds are a reflection of our relationship with God. God is not wagging a finger in our face and saying, "You must serve me, otherwise you are not going to Heaven." Rather, as a result of our love and faith in God, we naturally desire to do good things for Him and His Kingdom! In the same way that you buy your best friend a gift because you love them, your good works for God are an expression of the love and care that you already have for Him.

Also in this passage, James is arguing that true faith in God is not simply agreeing to a set of beliefs. In fact, the scripture argues that, "Even the demons believe that—and shudder." True faith is actively and wholeheartedly walking in alignment with those beliefs. James gives us an example of this with Abraham. Abraham was shown to be right with God because he trusted God enough to willingly sacrifice his son on an altar, and he was counted as righteous because of this. Enter every situation you face today with this question in mind. Are my actions my way of being righteous before God or are they a response of my love for God?

prayer points:

- Pray that God gives you fresh perspective on who He is and the unconditional love He has for you
- Pray that your actions today would be a reflection of the overwhelming love that you have for God
- Pray that God would develop within you a deeper trust in Him than ever before

NOTES:

day 13

week two

today's date

friday 6.14.19

today's scripture

james 3:1-2

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 13

week two

today's date

friday 6.14.19

today's scripture

james 3:1-2

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

It's important to note that James is thought to be the first book chronologically written of the New Testament, so the audience of this letter was primarily Jewish Christians, or in other words, people who had just recently confessed their belief of the resurrection, James included. So we are seeing a community of people who are "fresh off the boat" into this new religion (which they are discovering is actually more of a relationship) and are zealous to teach (or point fingers at) those who might not be living according to this new way of life.

I think this verse sums up the general idea around why non believers have such an issue with the church. Most likely more than any other complaint about Christians is that they are hypocritical, and don't practice what they preach. No one wants to follow fluff. Especially in 2019, where humanity is searching for authenticity. So James is encouraging us here to focus more on learning for ourselves vs learning for others. Because if we start to walk that road of knowing what is right, but living what is wrong, we will be judged heavily. And not just by God, but by people. So rather than fill ourselves with head knowledge, let's spend our time working on heart knowledge, because the Bible tells us that from the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

Lets ask ourselves today, are we wanting to learn about Jesus for information, or revelation?

prayer points:

- Pray that we would remember that the measure we use to judge is the same measure used to judge us.
- Pray that we would extend grace to others as we are on this journey together

NOTES:

day 14

week two

today's date

saturday 6.15.19

today's scripture

james 3:3-6

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 14

week two

today's date

saturday 6.15.19

today's scripture

james 3:3-6

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

The words we speak play a tremendous role in the overall quality of our lives. They can be a source of refreshment and joy to ourselves and others. However, they can also bring hurt to ourselves and others.

Today, we have what seems to be limitless access to negativity and hate. It is extremely hard to escape its company. If we are not careful, the reality of this can make it very easy to join the crowd and speak or think negative/hateful things over ourselves and others. Thankfully, the writer James brings this struggle to light, and encourages us that we don't have to live subject to it but can overcome it. Romans 12:2 (NIV) says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...". This verse is lived out when we pray and seek out a close relationship with Jesus and other people. The closer we get to Jesus and people who are seeking Him, the purer our speech becomes. When our speech is pure, we are able to live out the abundant life God has called us to live!

prayer points:

- Invite God to be the center of your life, thoughts and emotions.
- Ask that God would come closer to you and change the way you speak, think and feel, as you seek godly friendships and continue to grow closer to Him.
- Ask that He would help you fill your heart with things that honor and please Him.

NOTES:



week
three

day 16

week three

today's date

monday 6.17.19

today's scripture

james 3:7-12

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

monday 6.17.19

today's scripture

james 3:7-12

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

These verses paint a picture of how powerful our tongue is. As humans, we have the ability to tame the most powerful animals. We're capable of creating spacecrafts that can travel to other planets, "but no human being can tame the tongue." If we can't tame our tongue then what do we do? One option is to just try harder, and be more disciplined. That sounds good until we're late for work and someone cuts us off in traffic. The good news is that we don't have to tame our tongue, all we need to do is surrender it to God. Everyday we can surrender our words to God. Proverbs 18:21 says that "The tongue has the power of life and death." When we surrender control of our words God will begin to use us to speak life over those around us. The next thing we can do is evaluate our heart. Matthew 12:34 says, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." What is on the inside will come out in what we say. If we have anger or bitterness it will seep into the words that we say. If we are full of the Holy Spirit, we will speak words that are life giving and encouraging to those around us. As we surrender control of our words to God, ask Him to search your heart for anything that could be impacting the way you speak.

prayer points:

- Surrender control of your words to God, and ask God to use you to speak words of life to those around you.
- Ask that God would show you anything in your heart that could be impacting the way you speak to others, and that He would bring healing to those areas.

NOTES:

day 17

week three

today's date

tuesday 6.18.19

today's scripture

james 3:13-16

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

I think we can all agree that advertising is very prevalent in our culture today. From billboards and flyers to social media and commercials—it is clear that the something or someone is constantly vying for our attention. This is just as true in the supernatural as it is in the natural. It is important to remember that Satan wants to sell us something and that something is counterfeit wisdom. The bible gives us Satan's mission statement by telling us that his main goal is to steal, kill, and destroy our lives. This means that the sole intent of this counterfeit wisdom is to sabotage us. If we aren't careful, we can buy into the wisdom of the world which sometimes hides beneath the guise of so-called "street smarts". God calls this false wisdom 'foolishness' in 1 Corinthians 3:19. This bogus wisdom will tell us that we must do whatever it takes in order to succeed. No matter who we have to go through in the process. However, this could not be further from the truth! Martin Luther King Jr. said that anybody can be great because anybody can serve. This is true wisdom, and it is the only way to find a life of fulfillment!

Let's get rid of using any selfish ambition and counterfeit wisdom today and instead receive real wisdom from God through His word!

prayer points:

- Ask God to reveal any areas in your life where you may be buying into fake wisdom and replace it with His truth.
- Ask God for wisdom that comes from Heaven. Remember earlier in the book of James we learn that God will give us wisdom when we ask for it!

NOTES:

day 18

week three

today's date

wednesday 6.19.19

today's scripture

james 3:17-18

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

wednesday 6.19.19

today's scripture

james 3:17-18

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

Wisdom is a gift that we all need in our lives, and God loves to freely give us wisdom when we ask for it. Going back to James 1:5 it says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking". These verses expand on what wisdom looks like and what it truly means to have wisdom. It is easy to be deceived by those who pretend to be wise by talking well, but they do not live out or act on what they say. Let us be people who live out what we say and ask God for wisdom in order to do so. Let our actions speak peace, love, gentleness, mercy, and righteousness. All of these fruits of the spirit shown from our actions comes only from pure wisdom above.

prayer points:

- Pray for guidance and help in the areas you have trouble understanding and need wisdom in.
- Think about the fruits of the spirit and pray for God to show you which fruit of the spirit you need to work on.

NOTES:

day 19

week three

today's date

thursday 6.20.19

today's scripture

james 4:1-3

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

In this passage, James is bringing an awareness to our natural bend towards selfish ambition. We all have moments when we fall into the trap of greed and are blinded by our own desires. We begin to ruthlessly strive for what we want no matter what it takes, how much it costs, or who we hurt in the process. Living this way ultimately ends in feeling empty even if we get what we were striving towards. What God wants for our lives is so much more! He desires for us to live a life of abundance. This comes by surrendering to His will and walking in the perfect plan He has for our lives. By doing this, we are able to desire what God desires allowing us to fulfill all He has in store for His Kingdom. This then switches our selfish perspective to a Kingdom perspective, producing an impact that far outlives anything we could accomplish for ourselves.

prayer points:

- ☐ Pray to desire what God desires.
☐ Pray for pure motives.
☐ Pray for a Kingdom perspective.

NOTES:

Five horizontal lines for taking notes.

day 20

week three

<small>today's date</small> friday 6.21.19	<small>today's scripture</small> james 4:4
<i>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</i>	

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

friday 6.21.19

today's scripture

james 4:4

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

With the utmost passion, James shows a line drawn in the sand between those that are walking in the ways of this world, and those that are walking with Jesus. It was common in ancient times for God to speak with serious urgency and passion when His people were attracted to some form of idolatry. As James sees it, envy or desire of what is happening in the world, is idolatry, which equals friendship with the world.

James recognizes that we cannot both be friends of this world system in rebellion against God, and friends of God at the same time. Even the desire to be a friend of the world makes one an enemy of God.

The more we study His word, and invite God to be a part of our everyday lives, the desire for ways of the world will fade, while our hunger for a life with Him grows.

prayer points:

- Pray and ask God to reveal any idols or ways of the world that cause temptation in your life
- Pray for strength to withhold temptation or desire to fall into the ways of the world

NOTES:

day 21

week three

today's date

saturday 6.22.19

today's scripture

james 4:4-10

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

today's date

saturday 6.22.19

today's scripture

james 4:4-10

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

This scripture gives us wonderful insight on how God sees the world and how much He desires a relationship with us. The reality is that sin creates opposition between us and God, and the deeper reality that comes with sin is that we have chosen to build a relationship with the world over our relationship with Jesus. Be encouraged, however, that God's grace is SO BIG that even though a lifestyle of sin is your past reality it doesn't have to be your future reality. God wants you to remain focused on His spirit that's in you rather than the world that you're in. Grace comes when we humble ourselves and when we recognize that we have sinned. Don't let the enemy keep you in the mindset that you wear the label of "sinner" just because you've sinned. If we believe that Jesus paid for the removal of sin once and for all on the cross, then wearing the label of "sinner" is saying that what he did on the cross was not powerful enough to remove that label. The reality is that Jesus did not just remove the sin in our lives but he also removed the label of sin over our lives. Allow that mindset to humble you and fully submit to Jesus who gives you grace and pulls you out of your sin. Remember that being in relationship with Jesus is not about running from the world but running so hard after Jesus that the world could never get to you.

prayer points:

- Pray that God would forgive you of your relationship you have built with the world and ask God to give you new opportunities to run after Him and away from the world.
- Pray that God would humble your heart and that His spirit would become so close and so recognizable to you.

NOTES:

week
four

day 23

week four

<i>today's date</i> monday 6.24.19	<i>today's scripture</i> james 4:11-12
<i>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</i>	

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 23

week four

today's date

monday 6.24.19

today's scripture

james 4:11-12

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

In this passage, James is challenging believers to investigate another detail of our lives and the culture that surrounds us to better understand how a relationship with God creates the desire to love others as a result of our love for Him. Although we were made in the image of God, we are not called to play God – and what a responsibility that would be! We are given spiritual discernment, but when does discernment blur into judgement? If we keep our eyes fixed on living and acting in the Spirit, we might have a conviction to hold others to a higher standard. As a community of believers, we are called to lift each other up and encouraged to have accountability. This resonates when we are graciously and lovingly building each other up. When we juxtapose this against a sinful condemnation, we can quickly see the difference. One gives life, the other creates judgement, guilt, shame even chaos or confusion in our minds. The law in this context is summed up in loving God and loving others. If love is the fulfillment of the law, we are called to make this our highest priority.

prayer points:

- Pray for a heightened awareness of your response towards others
- Pray that awareness would reveal the opportunity to express love towards others in place of judgement or criticism
- If you find it is difficult to respond out of love in certain situations, pray the love portrayed by your actions first, even when we do not feel like it, would create an authentic response of loving others even when it is challenging

NOTES:

day 24

week four

today's date

tuesday 6.25.19

today's scripture

james 4:13-17

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

This passage asks us two questions. *Where is our focus, and where is our trust?*

There are many times in life when the fear of an uncertain future can bring present ineffectiveness. Many people think the answer to this fear is to spend all their time and resources preparing for the best possible outcome in the future. There is nothing wrong with working hard and being faithful with what we've been given. In fact, God asks us to live this way and blesses us when we do. But it becomes unhealthy when all of our time is spent focusing on the future, causing us to lose focus of the present. James points out that the span of our life is not long. He compares it to a morning fog (vs. 14). It's easy to think that the focus of this passage is about the length of our future. But what if that's not the point? The truth is that no matter how long our life is here on Earth, it will always be inconsequential when compared to the other side of eternity. What if instead of questioning the quality and quantity of the future, James is actually asking us: who are we trusting with our future? We can trust ourselves, and try to plan out every detail and hope everything works out. But James refers to our plans as being pretentious, or appearing better than they actually are. The best thing we can do is put our trust in God, and ask him what he wants us to do. His plans are always best.

prayer points:

- Pray that God would give you full focus on **TODAY** not tomorrow
- Pray and declare that you trust God with your future

NOTES:

day 25

week four

today's date

wednesday 6.26.19

today's scripture

james 5:1-6

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

James opens this chapter talking with those who are rich. To be clear he is not condemning people for having possessions or judging people for having lots of money, but he does talk about the love of money. What this passage ultimately boils down to is stewardship.

James talks about those who store their your treasures, money, fancy clothes, etc and he has two things to say about them. The first is that they have stored all this treasure up, but let it all spoil, rust, and become worthless. Secondly, not only did they waste their resources, but they did it all while cheating others out of the pay they deserved. The people he is referring to have not stewarded well what God has given them.

God blesses us not so we hoard our blessings. He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. Proverbs 11:25 says "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched."

Everything that we have and everything on Earth is God's, so we are stewards of what God has given us. We are not here to hoard everything in hopes of becoming rich, but instead, look to help others giving of your time, talents, or treasures.

prayer points:

- Ask God to show you how you can best steward what you have
- Pray for opportunities to help someone using either your time, talents, or treasure

NOTES:

day 26

week four

<i>today's date</i> thursday 6.27.19	<i>today's scripture</i> james 5:7-12
<i>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</i>	

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 26

week four

today's date

thursday 6.27.19

today's scripture

james 5:7-12

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

In this passage, James is comparing followers of God to farmers. Farmers are waiting for the rain to come down on their harvest. Notice that they don't question or doubt whether or not the rain will actually come. As believers, we are also waiting. Waiting on the return of Jesus. We can be confident and trust completely that Jesus WILL return, in the same way that the farmers trust completely that there will be rain. Even though the farmers are waiting for the harvest, they don't sit back and do nothing. They go out every day and tend to the field and prepare the way. We can stand firm on the fact that Jesus will return, but that doesn't mean we should sit back and just wait for Him. There is so much work that can be done to advance His Kingdom in the meantime, and that's what we're here for. Work faithfully to build His Kingdom, because He WILL be coming soon.

James then goes on to talk about what preparing the field looks like. He doesn't say that it will always be easy. Jesus basically guaranteed this when he said in John 16:33 that "In this world you will find trouble," but we must lean on our undeniable faith in God and His promises to guide the way through them because the latter half of that verse says "But take heart! I have overcome the world." When things do go wrong, we can't "grumble" and blame everyone around us. This is destructive and leads us down a path of regret and ineffectiveness. Look for the light in the darkness. We know we can trust that God will prevail through our circumstances because He's done it before. Job lost everything he had and was filled with sorrow, but he turned to the Lord and His faith grew deeper than ever before, and God pulled him through to the other side. Spend time today preparing the way for the glorious harvest that is Jesus Christ, and don't get discouraged if the waiting doesn't look like you expected it to.

prayer points:

- Pray that God will reveal opportunities for you to further His Kingdom and prepare the way for Him
- Pray for fresh perspective and vision from God when you face hard times

NOTES:

day 27

week four

today's date

friday 6.28.19

today's scripture

james 5:13-18

*Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.
Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.*

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 27

week four

today's date

friday 6.28.19

today's scripture

james 5:13-18

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

The overarching theme of this passage is emphasizing the power of prayer. If we could major on anything here, let that be it. Trouble? Pray. Happy? Praise. Sick? Call in the elders and leaders and pray.

It builds our faith when we pray.

The word happy in the Greek is synonymous with cheerful, and cheerful comes from the same root word as courage, which makes sense because if you've ever cheered on your team when they are down in the bottom of the ninth, it always takes an element of courage and faith. Because if they let you down, will you have the ability to continue cheering them on despite their loss? Despite your loss? But Jesus himself reminds us to take courage in the middle of our fears. *Matt. 14:27*

The passage finishes with a comparison between ourselves and the prophet Elijah, which could kind of feel like apples to oranges because Elijah was a BOSS. Surely we can't live up to him right? But the prayer of a righteous person doesn't make the perfect person, it makes the person right before God through Christ. And that occurs when we accept Jesus. There is no room for timid prayers when we recognize that. And even when we can't find the words for our prayers, the Bible tells us in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit turns our wordless sighs and groans into prayers for us! *Which takes the pressure off us and puts a faith filled expectation on God.*

prayer points:

- Ask yourself am I just saying my prayers, or am I praying my prayers.
- Pray and ask God to remind you of His character

NOTES:

day 28

week four

today's date

saturday 6.29.19

today's scripture

james 5:19-20

Grab your Bible and read today's scripture.

Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

S – SCRIPTURE

O – OBSERVATION

A – APPLICATION

P – PRAYER

day 28

week four

today's date

saturday 6.29.19

today's scripture

james 5:19-20

daily devotional & prayer

devotional:

These verses communicate just how important relationships are. James tells us that anyone who seeks to “bring back” those who have fallen from the truth of the Gospel, saves them from eternal death and frees them from the bondage of sin so that they can experience a rich and full life.

One of the most amazing things about following Jesus is that we don't just get to receive a second chance from Him, but we get to partner with Him in extending second chances to other people! It is both a great blessing and a great responsibility on those who are aware of this gift. If we choose to invite God into our daily lives, we can be the one God uses to draw people back into relationship with Him.

Since it's in our human nature to “wander”, let's be proactive and invite people into our lives and give them permission to call out anything that may lead us astray with our relationship with God. Likewise, we need to be constantly looking out for those in our lives. We should refuse to do life alone because God has called us to be an extension of healing for other people! What an honor!

prayer points:

- Thank God for His faithfulness, grace and the amazing gift of relationships
- Pray that God would prep your heart for those who are “wandering” and give you wisdom on how to love and care for them
- Pray that God would reveal those in your life that are lost and need help finding Him

NOTES:



last
sermon

