

The Book of  
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## Term Outline.

Date	Passage	Study	Activities	Supper	Other
July 22	1:1-18	Alex	Halbo	James	Gareth Away
July 29	1:19-27	Brooke	Gareth	Summi	
Aug 5	2:1-13	James	Brooke	Erin!	
Aug 12	2:14-26	Rachel	James	Gareth	
<b>(Practical Love Event, Saturday Aug 13? )</b>					
Aug 19	3:1-12	<b>(Special Event: Blokes: Halbo, Girls: Alex)</b>			
Aug 26	3:13-18	Gareth	Rachel	Summi	
Sep 2	4:1-12	Gareth	James	Alex	
Sep 9	4:13-17	<b>Bring Your Friends Event?</b>			
Sep 17	5:1-12	Greg	Brooke	Rachel	Alex Away
Sep 23	5:13-20	Halbo	Gareth	Summi	Alex Away

**This Fantabulous booklet belongs to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Entire Book of James:

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

1:9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

1:16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

1:19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

2:1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

2:12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

2:18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

2:20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

2:25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

3:1 Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

3:3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

3:7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, 8 but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

3:9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble."

4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

4:11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not

keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

4:13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. 17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.

5:1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4 Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. 9 Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

5:10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

5:12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.

5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

5:17 Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

5:19 My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

## **Some Background Info on James**

James, the book (not our fellow SAYGE leader), is believed to be written by James the half-brother of Jesus. The book of James was written to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations, which is believed to be the twelve tribes of Israel mentioned throughout the Old Testament.

This letter is a collection of practical instructions, to God's people all over the world. The writer, James, uses many metaphors and analogies to present his instructions regarding practical wisdom and guidance for Christian attitudes.

This book deals with many topics ranging from riches vs. poverty, temptation, good conduct, prejudice, faith and actions, the use of the tongue, wisdom, quarreling, pride vs. humility, judging, boasting, patience, and prayer.

This letter emphasises the need and importance of the actions that come along with faith, and how to practice them as a Christian.

## **Study 1, James 1:1-18**

### **Big Group Time: People Facing Trials**

1. When facing trials, who do you blame? Can you think of a Christian responding to trials? How did they respond?

Read James 1:1-18

2. Who wrote the book of James, and who did he write it to?

3. What should you consider pure joy? And why? v.2-3

4. What should you not lack? What should you do, if you are found lacking? v.5

5. What happens to the man who doubts? v.6-7

6. Read the passage again and complete the table below:

	<b>Right way to respond to trials</b>	<b>Wrong way to respond to trials</b>
<b>What are the Characteristics?</b>		
<b>What is the result?</b>		

7. From v.17-18, how is God described (see also v.5 & 13)? What comfort does this give you?

8. Think back in the past week, what have you grumbled about? How does God, through the book of James, encourage you?

9. When facing trials what should you pray for?

**Pray together!**

## **Study 2: James 1:19-27, Listen and Act**

### **Big Group Time**

(Pray and then read James 1:19-27 together.)

1. Look back to James 1:18. What has God done for us?

2. What is our response to be? (v19-21a)

3. When do you find it hard to be quick to listen/slow to speak/slow to anger? (v19)

4. What should we do when we find it hard? Why? (v21b)

5. What does it mean to humbly accept God's Word?

6. How does the person who is unresponsive to God’s word (v24) differ from the person who responds to God’s Word (v25)? Fill in the box with the descriptions of each person to find out:

The unresponsive person (v24)	The responsive person (v25)

Reflecting on the list, is there an issue from the unresponsive column you need to work on? Is there something from the responsive list that you can pray and act on, that will help you?

7. When James wrote this letter, some Christians were strict in following religious laws prided themselves in their law-keeping. Who does James describe as a truly religious person?

8. How do these actions apply Jesus’ command in Mark 12:31?

**How can you apply God’s word in your life?**

12:28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

12:29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

## **Study 3: James 2:1-13, Favouritism**

### **Big Group Time**

1. Have you ever been treated differently because someone else was favoured? How did it make you feel?

### **Read James 2:1-13**

2. What is James' reason for not showing favouritism? (v1)

3. Why are the two men in v2-3 treated differently?

4. What do we become when we treat people differently? (v4)

### **Read 1 Cor 1:26-28.**

5. Compare this with James 2:5-6. How is God's view of the rich and poor different from the world's view?

6. Who are the poor among us today?

7. How is the law summed up in vv8-13?

8. How does showing favouritism go against the law (v8-9)?

9. How can breaking the law at one point mean you have broken all of it? (vv10-11)

10. What is our motivation for showing mercy? (vv12-13)

### **Think It Through**

How should this passage affect the way we treat people at

- SAYGE?

- Church?

- Other meetings (ISCF)?

## **Study 4, James 2:14-26, Faith & Deeds**

### **Read James 2:14-26**

1. How does James describe faith that is not accompanied by deeds?  
(v.17)

2. Give an example of a situation you might come across similar to the one James describes in v. 15-16.

3. Explain what you think is meant by v. 18-19.

James uses two Old Testament examples to illustrate that faith without deeds is useless. How do the deeds of Abraham and Rahab demonstrate their faith?  
(Look up the accounts in Genesis 22 and Joshua 2)

4. Summarise this passage in one sentence.

5. In light of what we've read in James, what is Paul saying in Ephesians 2:8-10 verses?

Eph. 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

6. Using this passage from James, how would you respond to someone who says:

7.- “It doesn't matter how I act. God will forgive me so I can do what I want.”?

8.- “As long as you live a good life you'll go to heaven, no matter what you believe.”?

9.- “You must do a certain amount of good works before your faith means anything.”?

10.- “I can never be confident I'll go to heaven because I don't think I'm good enough.”?

## **Big Group**

## **Study 5 James 3:1-12**

### **Big Group Time**

Can you think of a time when you or someone you know, did something seemingly small, that turned out to have massive consequences?

### **Read James 3:1-12**

1. Why are the teachers judged more harshly? v.3
2. In v.3-5, James uses 4 different metaphors. What do they have in common? And what are they describing?
3. How does the tongue affect the body? v.6
4. How is the tongue different from other creatures? v.7-8
5. What two different things come out of the mouth? v.9-10
6. What does the fresh vs. salt water metaphor and the Figtree vs. Grapevine metaphors have in common?
7. How do they represent what is happening with our tongues?

8. Why can't our speech be both fresh water and salt water? What does this mean for us?

9. Think back in the past couple of weeks, when has your speech reflected praise and God? And when has your speech reflected evil and cursing?

10. Brain storm together ways we can aid one another to keep our speech full of God, and praise for God?

**Pray together!**

## **Study 6: James 3:13-18: Hey Wise Guy**

Draw a picture of a wise guy below:

### **Read James 3:13-18**

1. How is wisdom demonstrated? (v13)

2. Revision: How does James' definition of wisdom relate to what he has already said in his letter? (see 1:21 and 2:18)

3. What does the opposite of wisdom look like? (v14)

4. What might it mean to 'deny the truth'? (v14)

5. Describe the source and consequences of envy and selfish ambition. (vv15-16)

6. Verse 17 describes the qualities of heavenly wisdom. Try to write the verse out in your own words.

7. What are the effects of peaceful deeds? (v18)

8. Look back over last week's passage. How might wisdom and the tongue be connected?

### **Think It Through**

Where in your life are you tempted into the foolishness of envy and selfish ambition?

## Study 7, James 4:1-12: Fight Club

What causes fights and quarrels amongst you and your friends?

### Read James 4:1-6

1. What causes conflict and unanswered prayer amongst the readers of this letter? (vv1-3)

2. Why does James call his readers adulterous people? (v4)

3. God is a jealous God who wants his people to follow him. What seems to be stopping James' readers from doing this? (vv5-6)

### Read w7-10 and complete the table below:

Commands given...	Promises linked to commands...

## **Read w11-12**

4.How are slander and the law connected? (check out Leviticus 19:16)

5.What stern warning is given in v12?

6.How might you be in danger of being too friendly with the world?

7.Have your recent conversations and prayers been motivated by your

8.desires or God's? How will you rectify this?

**Note: we skip Ch 4:13-17, because we'll talk about it at the...**

# **Bring Your Friends Event!**

## **Study 8, James 5:1-12, Tediosity**

Have you ever had to do something tedious? What was it? What was it like?

### **Read James 5:1-6**

1. Who is James addressing in vs. 1? (Have a look back at 2:6-7)
2. What sort of image of wealth do we see in vs. 1-2? Will it last?
3. How does their wealth speak against them? v.3-4
4. How does wealth blind them of their impending doom? v.5

### **Read James 5:7-12**

5. What does James call the people to do in v.7?
6. What example dose James give in v.7,8? How is this challenging?
7. What shouldn't we do in v.9?

8. What do you think it means in vs. 9 when it says “The judge is standing at the door”?

9. Why should we persevere, v. 11?

10. What is James getting at in verse 12? Look back to Matt. 5:33-37.

11. How is this challenging?

### **Think It Through**

How do YOU wait for Christ's return? Are you patient like a farmer or ignorant like the rich in vs. 1-6

Where are some places that you find it hard to persevere?

## **Study 9, James 5:13-20: Prayer & Faith**

### **Big Group**

Can you think of a time when your prayers were answered?

### **Read James 5:13-16**

1. What sort of mood should you be in to pray? (v.13)
2. Elders are mature Christians with responsibility to care for people. What are the Elders asked to do (v.14)?
3. How is the prayer described (v.15)?
4. What are the results of the prayer, and who achieves them?

### **Read 5:17-18**

Read about Elijah's prayer in 1Kings 18:16-46. try to draw these events. They're pretty funny...

5. James has been writing about 'double-mindedness' (e.g. 1:22-23). What do you reckon Elijah would say about it?

6. Pick an option and talk about why it's right:

- ✓ God answers Elijah's prayers because Elijah is some sort of super-magic-prayer-guy
- ✓ God has a point to prove about faithfulness
- ✓ If I prayed like Elijah, I could make it rain

**A Tricky Bit: Is Sickness because of sin?**

YES: Because we live in a fallen world, all sickness is due to sin.

MAYBE: Sometimes sickness is not directly related to a particular sin.

MAYBE: Sometimes a particular sin is the cause of sickness. Like James says, we should confess our sins & repent of them.

Note: The focus of the passage is prayer. It's a bit tricky to know if 'anointing' should be copied by us, but certainly prayer should!

**Read 5:19-20**

7. What might 'wandering from the truth' look like?

8. Who is it who should bring someone back in line?

-Do you think that would be easy?

-Do you think it would be important?

**Big Group: The Migration**