

MOMENTUM

THE

BOOK

OF

JAMES

Fall 2021

JAMES

Fall 2021

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BIBLE STUDY METHODS

This packet is designed to help us learn methods that will aid in our study of the Bible. These methods fit under three fundamental skills: observe, interpret, and apply. Hopefully as you practice these methods, your time studying the Bible will become more worshipful and meaningful. Listed below are the methods and purpose of each box to guide you in your weekly study.

Pray (How will I understand?): Before each Bible study our process should always start in prayer. We are utterly dependent upon God to reveal His will to us. Without God working in our hearts and minds as we study, the Bible becomes mere knowledge. The Holy Spirit is needed in order to turn knowledge into wisdom.

Observe (What does it say?): Before we can interpret the meaning of a passage, it's important that we first make observations in the verses we're reading. Take note of the grammatical, literary, and cultural elements of the passage. This involves considering key words, verbs, and connecting words, as well as the *who, what, when, why, and how's* of the passage. Ask yourself questions such as:

- Who... Who is James talking about? Who is accomplishing the task? Who is benefiting from the action?
- Why... Why did James choose this word? Why did James include this phrase, statement? Why did James connect ideas? Why did James not say _____?
- What... What is the meaning of this word? What is the significance of this phrase? What is the implication of this statement? What is the relationship between these phrases?
- How... How was this action accomplished? How will this situation occur?

Interpret (What does it mean?) After careful observation, we can start trying to interpret what a certain verse or passage means. Our goal should be to determine what the author was saying to the original audience. In order to do this, we must understand the *context*. This entails reading the whole section, chapter, or book of whatever you're studying in order to understand the overall idea and the author's flow of thought.

BIBLE STUDY METHODS

Interpret (continued): We can also define key words, study cross-references, and compare multiple translations. Commentaries such as *The New Illustrated Bible Commentary* or many others can be helpful. Websites like biblestudytools.com or blueletterbible.org are helpful in studying key words in the original languages for a deeper understanding. Ask yourself questions such as:

- What happened right before or right after the verses I am studying?
- What is the main idea of the chapter?
- What seems to be the author's flow of thought?
- What cross references help clarify?
- What key words need to be defined?
- What do other translations say?
- How does it relate to the main idea of the chapter?

Apply (How does it apply to me?): Application is the last and most important step in Bible study. After we've established what the author was trying to communicate to the original audience, we can apply these truths to our own lives. Through prayer and reflection, think through key principles learned in the passage you've studied. Ask yourself questions such as:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something I need to pray for specifically this week? Is there any relationship I need to work on?
- What exactly will I do differently this week to apply this principle to my life? Whom, other than the Lord, will I ask to help me follow through with this application?

BE THE CHURCH

At the end of each bible study, you'll notice the *Be The Church* section. The purpose of this section is to help you reflect on how you can better live out your faith. There are certain works the Church has always done, and those are exaltation, edification, and evangelism.

EXALTATION

As the Westminster catechism goes, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." That's humanity's purpose. To worship God in every arena of our lives. For the Church, its purpose, goal, and focus is to glorify God through adoration and service. Every decision we make is an act of worship. The word *worship* is derived from an old English word 'worth-ship'. So, when we worship God we are proclaiming and remembering his worth. As you contemplate this section, think through *how can I better worship God with my life?*

EDIFICATION

One of the primary ways we are to showcase our worship is by maturing in our faith. The purpose of the Church is to grow believers toward maturity in Christ through teaching and discipline in the midst of genuine community. As we do so, we will naturally do the work of ministry that the Holy Spirit has equipped us for. As you contemplate this section, think through *how can I grow more into Christ-likeness? How can I better obey all that Christ commands?*

EVANGELISM

The purpose of the Church is to proclaim the person and work of God the Son (evangelism) to all of creation. The biblical mandate is clear: we are called to make disciples of all nations. We are to be ready to share our faith when opportunities arise, and we are to actively look for those opportunities! We are to engage in missions both locally and globally. In regards to sharing the gospel, there are a variety of effective ways to do so, whether that be The 3 Circles, Romans Road, or Your Personal Testimony.

There are a plethora of resources out there that can help you live out your faith through exaltation, edification, and evangelism. But one recommended resource you can study by yourself, or preferably with others, is the book *The Only One: Living Fully In, By, and For God* by Curtis Sergeant.



W E E K 1

Survey

SURVEY

Background: Now that you've completed the survey of James, read the material below. For further study, consult sources listed below.*

Authorship: The author identifies himself as "James," which was a very popular Hebrew name. There are at least four men named James in the NT: (1) James the Son of Zebedee, brother of John (Matthew 4:21), an Apostle; (2) James, 'the lesser', the son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3), an Apostle; (3) James the father of the Apostle Judas (Luke 6:16); and lastly (4) James, 'the just,' the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55). Based off the evidence, the most reasonable option is James, the half-brother of Jesus, is the author of this book. James was the known and recognized leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:3; Galatians 2:9). James did not believe his brother was Lord, until after the resurrection (John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7). Josephus, a first century historian, records that James was martyred in A.D. 62 for his faith. James is probably one of the earliest NT books written, more than likely around A.D. 45.

Audience: The greeting to the "12 tribes scattered among the nations" (James 1:1), shows us that this letter was written to Jewish Christians scattered from Palestine because of their faith in Christ. It seems probable that many of the recipients were poor and suffering, and some had been imprisoned and robbed of their lives. Because of their poor conditions and hardships, many of them were struggling with the temptations of worldliness and partiality. James writes to these struggling believers in a Prophetic style, encouraging them to persevere and live out their faith.

Purpose: The purpose of this letter is to encourage and warn those struggling, to live out their faith and become spiritually mature. James focuses more on behavior rather than doctrine. There are many theological statements in this letter, but the emphasis is Christian practice and behavior, making this book one of the most practical letters in the New Testament. James 1:19 poses a simple outline of the entire book as he encourages Christians to be "quick to hear (1:21-2:26), slow to speak (chapter 3), and slow to anger (4:1-5:12)."

My Outline of the Book:

Having read this background information for James, create an outline with titles for each of the major sections. There are many different approaches to outlining any biblical book, so don't get hung up on being "right." Spend some time creating an outline that will be helpful to *you* as you study.

Example:

Opening (1:1-1)

Prologue (1:2-18)

 Responding to trials (1:2-11)

 Etc...

* Sources: ESV Study Bible, The Bible Project video on James, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, and Dr. Constables Notes (planobiblechapel.org)

SURVEY

My Outline of the Book:

BE THE CHURCH

How can you better live out your faith this week?

EXALTATION

What can you worship God for? How can you better glorify Him through adoration and service this week?

EDIFICATION

How can you grow in Christ-likeness? What steps can you take this week to mature in your faith?

EVANGELISM

How can you engage in local and global missions? What is God calling you to do this week?



W E E K 2

James
1:1-12

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 1:1-12

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; ¹⁰ and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Answer interpretive questions. Look at the context, define key words, look at cross-references, and compare translations.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

What does this passage say about God?

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAN

What does this passage say about Man?

APPLICATION

How does this passage or message apply to me?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MY NOTES

BE THE CHURCH

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GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



W E E K 3

James
1:13-18

GETTING STARTED

MEMORY VERSE: Write our your memory verse from last week.

CONTEXT: What happens right before or after this passage? What is the main idea of the chapter? What seems to be the author’s flow of thought?

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 1:13-18

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. ¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

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GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



W E E K 4

James
1:19-27

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 1:19-27

¹⁹ *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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W E E K 5

James
2:1-13

GETTING STARTED

MEMORY VERSE: Write our your memory verse from last week.

CONTEXT: What happens right before or after this passage? What is the main idea of the chapter? What seems to be the author's flow of thought?

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 2:1-13

2 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of personal favoritism*. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to *be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

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W E E K 6

James
2:14-26

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 2:14-26

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” ¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. ²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? ²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

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W E E K 7

James

3:1-12

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 3:1-12

3 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. ² For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well. ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way. ¹¹ Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter *water*? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

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W E E K 8

James
3:13-4:3

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 3:13-4:3

¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

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GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



W E E K 9

James
4:4-17

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 4:4-17

⁴You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? ⁶But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” ⁷Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

¹¹Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it*. ¹²There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

¹³Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” ¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, *you ought* to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.” ¹⁶But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

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W E E K 1 0

James

5:1-12

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 5:1-12

5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. ²Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. ³Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure! ⁴Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, *and* which has been withheld by you, cries out *against you*; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and put to death the righteous *man*; he does not resist you.

⁷Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. ¹⁰As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

¹²But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

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VERSE TO MEMORIZE

MY NOTES

BE THE CHURCH

How can you better live out your faith this week?

EXALTATION

What can you worship God for? How can you better glorify Him through adoration and service this week?

EDIFICATION

How can you grow in Christ-likeness? What steps can you take this week to mature in your faith?

EVANGELISM

How can you engage in local and global missions? What is God calling you to do this week?

GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



W E E K 1 1

James
5:13-20

GETTING STARTED

MEMORY VERSE: Write our your memory verse from last week.

CONTEXT: What happens right before or after this passage? What is the main idea of the chapter? What seems to be the author's flow of thought?

OBSERVE: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Ask interpretive questions. Look for key words, verbs, and connecting words. Also, look for the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the passage.

JAMES 5:1-12

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? *Then* he must pray.

Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

¹⁹ My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, ²⁰ let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

INTERPRET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Answer interpretive questions. Look at the context, define key words, look at cross-references, and compare translations.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

What does this passage say about God?

CHARACTERISTICS OF MAN

What does this passage say about Man?

APPLICATION

How does this passage or message apply to me?

SUMMARY STATEMENT

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GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS



W E E K 1 2

Synthesis

SYNTHESIS

How does it all fit together?

During the last few months we have observed, interpreted, and applied the whole book of James. Our final goal is to create an overall summary in order to remind us of truths learned, as well as the flow and content of the account of James.

MY OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

The first step of synthesizing is to create your own outline of the book of James. During the survey at the beginning of our study we created an outline of the book, but now as we have completed our study of James, we want to create another new revised outline. Review your summary sentences and completed work from each week in order to help you create your new outline.

SYNTHESIS

How does it all fit together?

REFLECT ON WHAT YOU LEARNED

The second step is to create a list of the theological truths and life lessons you learned through your study of James. Go back and review each lesson in order and review key theological truths learned, attributes of God, and application principles.

Theological Truths Learned:

Life Lessons Learned:

RECORD APPLICATIONS TO CONTINUE PRACTICING

Lastly, prayerfully choose key application principles learned from the book of James that you feel led to continue practicing. Think about areas of your life where growth is needed, and think of 2 or 3 specific, intentional, and attainable goals. Record where in James you got your principle from, and think through a specific plan of action.

Application Principle #1

Application Principle #2

Application Principle #3

BE THE CHURCH

How will you better live out your faith because of what you learned in James?

EXALTATION

What can you worship God for? How can you better glorify Him through adoration and service?

EDIFICATION

How can you grow in Christ-likeness? What steps can you take since doing this study to mature in your faith?

EVANGELISM

How can you engage in local and global missions? What is God calling you to do after completing this study?

GROUP PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS