

Study Plan: Preparing for James

In preparation for our upcoming study of James, read through the Letter in one sitting at least once each week for the next 2 weeks (you can find it here: <http://waxhawbible.org/James-letter/>). Ask God for wisdom and understanding as you read.

Some suggestions:

- Print it out and tape the pages together
- Use a pencil, colored pencils, or highlighters to mark repeated words or ideas to help you make connections
- Keep a pad or notebook with you if you need more space to record your thoughts
- If you have any questions, try to find answers from James first (context) or other Bible passages before looking at study notes, commentaries, etc.
- Share what you are learning with someone else!

From *Jenson's Survey of the New Testament*:

Think about the primary message of Scripture. It is accurate to say that the Bible dwells mainly on two themes: "The Way to God," and "A Walk with God." No one can walk *with* God who has not first been restored *to* God. Much of the New Testament tells us the way a sinner can come to God and be eternally saved. That way is by God's grace, through one's faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8). The epistle of James, on the other hand, was written to instruct Christians—those who have been reconciled to God through Christ—how to walk with God in this life.

Thoughts, words, and deeds are the ingredients of a person's daily living. The important question here is, What *kind* of thoughts, words, and deeds should be part of the life of a Christian who walks with God? James was written to give us God's answers to that question. Those are some of the things you will be observing as you survey this important book.

December 20-26

1. What words or ideas are repeated or emphasized in James?
2. What patterns do you see? What words or ideas are grouped together?
3. What is the main point or theme of each of these groupings?
4. Write down any questions you have, things you find interesting, etc.

December 27 – January 2

1. How do the following passages relate to James 1-2?
 - a. Genesis 22:1-19
 - b. Deuteronomy 13:1-5
 - c. Matthew 4:1-11
2. What is God's goal for these tests?