



LETTER OF JAMES

30-DAY READING PLAN

WEEK 1

DAY 1

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:1-4

REFLECT: This verse talks about facing trials of various kinds. What current trials am I facing? Is anybody close to me facing a trial?

APPLY: How am I currently handling this trial? Where am I doing well? Where could I use prayer and support in this trial?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal anything in your heart that may hinder you from growing closer to Him during the next 6 weeks. Also, ask Him to give you the boldness to be open with your Forged/ Refined partners.

DAY 2

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:5-8

REFLECT: Where has God given me wisdom throughout a current or past trial? Where do I (or did I) need God to give me wisdom within this trial?

APPLY: God gives us wisdom through Scripture, conversations with others, studying, etc. What am I able to do this week to seek God's wisdom?

PRAY: Ask God for wisdom in dealing with any current trials or circumstances. Ask Him to reveal an opportunity to be an encouragement to somebody else dealing with a similar circumstance.

DAY 3

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:9-11

REFLECT: What are some potential ways I could see God using a current trial or circumstance to help me grow closer to Him? Be specific.

APPLY: Write or type out how you see God working in a current situation.

PRAY: Ask God to bring you closer to Him during the next 6 weeks and beyond.

DAY 4

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:12-16

REFLECT: Difficulties can lead to both temptation and testing of our faith. In trials, how can I hold onto the idea that God is good? How can I remind myself of these things?

APPLY: Write out a reminder of God's goodness and put it somewhere you will notice it daily. This could include a list of things He has done in your life or encouraging Scripture.

PRAY: Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds us that Jesus can empathize with our weaknesses yet is without sin. We can boldly approach his throne with our requests. Thank Jesus that we can approach Him and take any concerns to Him in prayer today.

DAY 5

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:17-18

REFLECT: In the midst of my trial, do I see any evidence of the goodness of God in my life?

APPLY: Consider any negative thoughts you have had in the past week. Go back to the note you wrote on day 4 and ask God to replace those negative thoughts with thoughts of His goodness.

PRAY: Thank God for the goodness He has shown in your life. Ask Him to remind you of that goodness when you are overtaken with negative thoughts. Surrender those thoughts to Jesus today!

WEEK 2

DAY 6

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:19-20

REFLECT: What are some things I get angry about that God Himself wouldn't be upset with? What sin makes God angry that I typically ignore? Where has anger backfired on me in the past? All anger is not bad. Where should anger have a proper place in my life?

APPLY: How can I properly respond to sin that would make God angry? How can I better ignore trivial things that wouldn't upset God?

PRAY: Ask God to show you where you have been angry unnecessarily. Ask Him to reveal if there anybody you need to apologize to for an angry outburst. If so, ask Him for the strength to apologize.

DAY 7

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:21-25

REFLECT: Where am I doing well in actively doing God's word? Where am I falling short in doing God's word?

APPLY: How can I actively live out an area of God's word where I have fallen short in the past?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal an area of His word in which you have fallen short. Ask Him for wisdom in correcting that mistake and for eyes to see other areas of improvement.

DAY 8

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:26-27

REFLECT: God cares about the weakest members of society. What does this reveal about His character? List at least 5 attributes of God in light of this.

APPLY: How can I help somebody in need this week?

EXTRA: If you haven't already, consider looking up an organization like Compassion International that specializes in serving those in need.

PRAY: Ask God to open your eyes to somebody around you who is in need. Also, ask God to show you how to better support those in need around the world (prayer support, financial support, etc.).

DAY 9

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:1-4

REFLECT: Where do I see an attitude of partiality in my life (family members, co-workers, etc.)?

APPLY: How can I do better in this area? What can I practically do to see people on the same level?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal anywhere you might be showing favoritism. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of this sin and to remind you to show love to everybody.

DAY 10

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:5-7

REFLECT: In these verses, it seems that favoritism comes from fear. Is fear a motivation of my own favoritism? If not, what is the driving force?

APPLY: Everybody is made in the image of God. How can I practically treat those around me as image-bearers of God?

PRAY: Take time to thank God for making everybody unique yet all in His own image. Ask Him to remind you that we are all image-bearers and let that impact how you interact with others this week.

WEEK 3

DAY 11

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:8-13

REFLECT: Have I been overly harsh to those around me (family member, co-worker, somebody at church, etc.)?

APPLY: Mercy triumphs over judgment. In which ways can I show mercy to those around me this week?

PRAY: Take time to thank God for His mercy. Thank Jesus for His showing His grace and mercy on the cross. Ask Him to show you opportunities to show mercy to others this week.

DAY 12

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:14-17

REFLECT: Where do I see action in my faith? Where am I “just talking” in my faith?

APPLY: What steps can I take this week to make my faith more active?

PRAY: Ask God to show you ways to make your faith more active than ever. Ask Him for opportunities to show good works in response to the work He has already done in your life.

DAY 13

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:18-20

REFLECT: What is the danger of having a faith without showing any evidence?

APPLY: What evidence can other people see in my life that God has changed my heart? How can I make this more evident to those around me?

PRAY: Ask God to give you unmistakable opportunities to make your faith in Him more evident to those around you this week.

DAY 14

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 2:21-26

REFLECT: What are my thoughts about viewing God as my friend?

APPLY: How would I evaluate my friendship with God? Is it a close friendship? Or is He more of an acquaintance?

PRAY: Ask God to help you recognize Him as a friend who walks with you in life. Ask for opportunities to share that friendship with others.

DAY 15

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 3:1-5

REFLECT: How would I gauge my control of my tongue? Do I do well in this area? Where do I fail (work, school, home, with certain people, etc.)?

APPLY: How can I be more mindful of my words this week?

PRAY: Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of any speech that isn't honoring to Him. Ask for forgiveness and for wisdom in changing that habit moving forward.

WEEK 4

DAY 16

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 3:6-8

REFLECT: Has my speech ever put me in a situation I didn't need to be in?

APPLY: Reconsider the question from Day 15. How can I be more mindful of my words this week?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal any unconfessed sin related to your speech. Repent of this sin and ask God for opportunities to use your speech to build others up this week.

DAY 17

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 3:9-12

REFLECT: In these verses, James is still talking about our tongue. In general, is my speech uplifting to others? Or do I often tear others down?

APPLY: How can my conversation be a blessing for others this week (face-to-face, or digitally)?

PRAY: Ask God for practical opportunities to bless somebody else this week. If He brings somebody specific to mind, write or type out their name as a reminder to bless them this week.

DAY 18

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 3:13-18

REFLECT: Earthly wisdom leads to bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. What examples of worldly wisdom do I see in our culture? Godly wisdom is pure, peaceable, gentle, etc. (from verse 17). Where do I see godly wisdom within our culture?

APPLY: How do I see earthly wisdom impacting my everyday decisions? Am I embracing any parts of our culture that I should be rejecting?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal any areas where culture is negatively impacting your relationship with Him and others. Ask Him to replace those areas in your life with His wisdom. Again, reflect on verse 17.

DAY 19

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 4:1-2

REFLECT: What internal conflicts do I see in myself?

APPLY: How should I allow Jesus to bring peace to those internal conflicts? What do I need to surrender to Him in order to be at peace?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal anything that is causing inner turmoil. If it is related to sin, ask Him for forgiveness and wisdom to move forward. If it is related to something outside of your control, ask God to bring peace to your heart in knowing He is in control.

DAY 20

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 4:3-6

REFLECT: Where in my prayer life do I see selfishness? Do I pray selfish prayers or selfless prayers? Worldly jealousy asks, "What can I get from somebody?" But the jealousy of God is meant to protect and honor us. How does God's heavenly jealousy bring me comfort?

APPLY: How can I make my prayers more God-centered this week? Be specific.

PRAY: Take some time in prayer to worship God for WHO He is. Ask God to bring some of His own attributes to mind.

WEEK 5

DAY 21

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 4:7-10

REFLECT: Is there any sin in my life that I have been ignoring or excusing?

APPLY: What is something in my life for which I need to repent? *Share this with your group or a close friend.*

PRAY: Ask God to break your heart over your own sin this week. Ask Him to reveal any continued unconfessed sin and take time to repent.

DAY 22

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 4:11-12

REFLECT: Where do I see myself wrongly judging a fellow believer?

APPLY: How could I practically come alongside this person and be a help to him/her in his/her walk with Christ?

PRAY: Ask God to bring somebody to mind that has been unfairly judged. Take time to pray for that person. Pray for an opportunity to serve that person this week.

DAY 23

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 4:13-17

REFLECT: In this passage, a hypothetical person is making plans without any consideration of God. Do I make my plans in the same way? Or do I recognize God's sovereignty (power/authority) over my life?

APPLY: How can I intentionally acknowledge God's sovereignty this week?

PRAY: Take time to recognize God's power and authority over your life. Praise Him for this attribute of His and ask Him to remind you of His sovereignty this week.

DAY 24

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:1-6

REFLECT: If I had to stand before God today, would I be comfortable with how I have used the possessions He has given me?

APPLY: How can I better use my possessions (home, car, technology, etc.) to promote Jesus to others?

PRAY: Consider the possessions with which God has blessed you. Take time to thank Him for these things. Ask Him to bring to mind practical opportunities to use these things to promote Him to others.

DAY 25

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:7-11

REFLECT: Is there a situation in my life that is causing me to wait on God's timing?

APPLY: How can I let patience practically play out in my life?

PRAY: Ask God to reveal any area of life in which you are not practicing patience. Ask God to bring peace over that situation and ask Him to build your endurance in all areas.

WEEK 6

DAY 26

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:12

REFLECT: We should be people of integrity. Do I see this in myself? Or can my word be unreliable at times?

APPLY: How can I follow through with what I say I am going to do this week? These can be simple things like returning a call, completing a project at home, or following up with somebody at work.

PRAY: Ask God to reveal any area where your integrity is lacking. Repent of this sin and ask God to give you a clear mind to follow through with your word this week.

DAY 27

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:13-16

REFLECT: Our spiritual lives have a direct impact on our physical lives. How do I see sin impacting different areas of my life?

APPLY: Verse 16 tells us to confess our sins to one another. Who can I talk to about this area in my life? Share with your spouse, group members, or another close friend.

PRAY: Ask God for the strength and discernment to confess your sin to another believer this week. This isn't easy but is very rewarding when we trust God and our brothers and sisters enough to share our hearts.

DAY 28

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:17-18

REFLECT: Elijah was a man who prayed for big things and God acted. What big prayers should I be praying? Does fear hold me back from praying these prayers?

APPLY: Write or type out your big prayers and keep them somewhere noticeable. Use this as a reminder to pray these big prayers and see how God answers in the coming weeks, months, or even years.

PRAY: Take whatever God brought to mind in the previous questions and pray over those things for at least 5 minutes.

DAY 29

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 5:19-20

REFLECT: Who do I see drifting away from God right now?

APPLY: Take some dedicated time to pray for that person today and this week. Find a way to gently encourage that person this week (text, phone call, etc.).

PRAY: Take time to pray over whoever God brought to mind in the previous questions. Ask Him to reveal opportunities to encourage this person and to bring up Jesus in conversation.

DAY 30

PRAY: Ask Jesus to reveal Himself to you in His word today! Ask Him to slow you down enough to fully comprehend what He is saying.

READ: James 1:1-4 (again)

REFLECT: Think back to the first day of this study when we discussed facing trials of various kinds. How has God worked in your circumstances over the past 6 weeks?

APPLY: How can I continue to surrender my circumstances to Jesus as we close out our 6 weeks? How can I share what He has done in my life with somebody outside of my group?

PRAY: Take time to thank God for how He has worked in your life the past 6 weeks. Ask Him to bring an opportunity to share what you've learned with somebody else. Ask Him to reveal something in His word that you should study next and come up with a plan to do it!