



As we learned in unit 1, the Epistle of James was written by James to scattered Jewish believers. It encourages Christians, then and now, to live in such a way that their saving faith is alive, not dead. James gives practical commands to help us mature in our Christian walk. We are not told our lives are free of trials; yet our key verse, James 1:2 tells us to be joyful in the midst of tests.

READ & OBSERVE

Our reading goal this unit is to read the entire book of James. Begin with prayer asking God to reveal Himself to you through this letter to the church.

Read James chapter 1. The observation questions come from James 1:1-18.

1. **Why can we have joy when we endure trials or tests?**

2. **How should we ask for wisdom?**

3. **What is the result of a faithless prayer?**

James instructs with more than fifty imperatives or commands to the believers. Circle each command you see throughout the book of James. Some may be difficult to find, but do not worry, the study will point out particular commands and remind you to circle them. Find and circle the imperatives (commands) in verses 2, 4, 5, and 6. All of these are positive commands, but James also issues negative commands (we call them prohibitions). They usually include the words *no* or *not*. Find prohibition commands in verses 13 and 16. Did you circle them?

🔍 Mark keywords: **trials/temptations** and **testing/trying**. Keywords are those words that bring out the main idea of a passage, and word studies help us reach a fuller, richer understanding of the Scripture. Complete the word study using the Blue Letter Bible.

4. WORD STUDY

trials/temptations (James 1:2)

Strong's #

Greek word:

Meaning:

Definitions are another good Bible study tool. Practice using the Bible dictionary in the Blue Letter Bible to give you a good understanding of words that may be difficult.

🔍 5. **What does James mean when he refers to double-mindedness?** Define **double-minded** in *Vine's Expository Dictionary* at blueletterbible.org.

A simile is a literary device used to compare two items, it and helps give clarity to the text. For practice, match the following similes. Take note, one of them is from our study text today. They help create pictures in your mind to bring words alive! **Match the similes.**

6. Snow looks like ____.

7. The day of the Lord will come like a ____.

8. A double-minded man is like a ____.

a. Wave of the sea

b. A white blanket

c. Thief in the night

An unstable, double-minded man lacks unwavering faith in God.



EXPLORE • UNIT 2, LESSON 1

Study Passage: James 1:2-18 | Memory Passage: Matthew 5:10-12

On to *Explore*, the section of our *Thrive* study where we explore the depths and richness of God's Word. You will need to complete this *Explore* portion of the study and memorize the second memory passage as you prepare for competition.

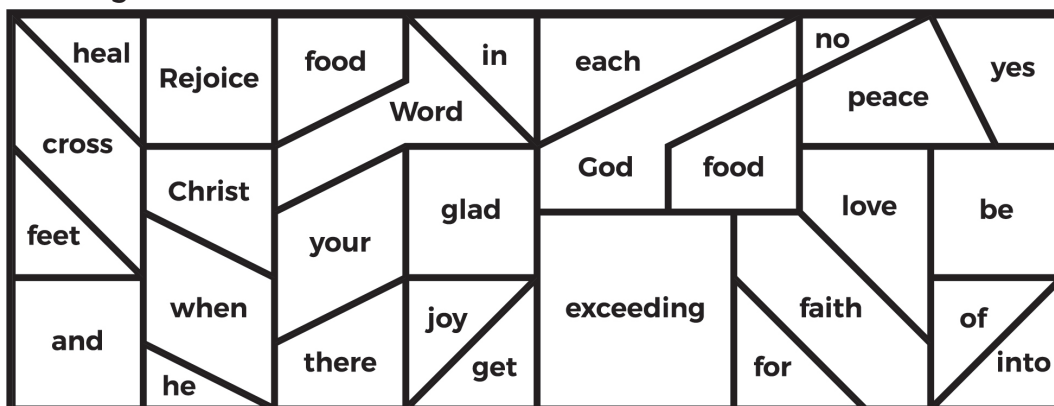
THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS IN JAMES

As previously mentioned, James knew the teachings of Jesus very well and repeated many of His words throughout his letter to the Jewish believers. In this study, you will see the writings of James reflect the teachings of Jesus, specifically the beatitudes.

- The Words of Jesus is our second memory passage from the beatitudes, Matthew 5:10-12, and it is reinforced in James 1:2. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and mark these keywords: **blessed** and **rejoice**.

BEATITUDE Matthew 5:10-12

- Color in all the squares and fill in the blanks to remind of us of the teachings of Jesus when we are facing trials.



- Paul and Silas correctly responded to persecution. They are great examples for us. In Acts 13:50-52, Paul and Barnabas were persecuted and driven/expelled out of the city. **How did they respond and what blessing did they receive?**

READ & OBSERVE

- Read James 1:12-18, marking the keyword: **lust/desire(s)**.

3. Does God ever try to lure us away from His way in order to test us?

4. From where do temptations come?

5. WORD STUDY

lust/desire(s) (James 1:14-15)

Strong's #

Greek word:

Meaning:

- We will close lesson 1 of each unit by summarizing the study passage. Fill in the blanks to summarize James 1:2-18.

6. In James 1:2-18, James tells _____ to stay faithful during difficult times. _____ it all joy when we face testing because enduring trials produces _____ in our faith.