DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

"THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES,
BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD WILL STAND FOREVER."
ISAIAH 40:8

THIS READING PLAN IS FOR YOU!

Hey Gospel City, this week we will be studying the book of James! James is full of practical wisdom, so much so that it has been referred to as the "Proverbs of the New Testament." The world has conditioned us to equate wisdom with knowledge. But the Bible teaches that wisdom is demonstrated by what we do. And the biggest fool is the one who "knows" but does not "do." Therefore, readers beware. James is full of wisdom regarding trials, wealth, prayer, speech, behavior, relationships, faith and much, much more. However, the purpose of this wisdom is not to merely add to our knowledge, but rather to provide a type of knowledge that fuels godly obedience. Therefore, let us proceed with prayerful humility asking God to help us be "doers" of His Word and not just "hearers." For James is full of weighty commands, but obedience to these commands will produce in us the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him. You are loved!

THE FORMAT OF THE READING PLAN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

READ:
What you will read is living and active (Heb. 4:12). It has the power to revive your soul (Ps. 19:7). Its truth is worth more than fine gold (Ps. 19:10), and it will never fail or fade away (Is. 40:8). Go to it humbly, hear God speak, and be reminded of the Hope that you have in Jesus.

MEDITATE ON:
Simply reading the Word is like briskly walking by a warm fire on a cold night. But meditation is like sitting by the warm fire so that it lights up for your face and warms your bones. (Don Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian life). Therefore, pick a verse from each section to meditate on. What does it mean? What does it say about God? What does it say about you? What do you need to do to obey? You can pick any verse. But we will suggest a verse each time in case you have trouble picking one.

DISCUSS THIS:
We do not want to just be hearers of the Word; we want to be doers of the Word as well. Ask yourself and those around you how you can apply the text, how you can obey the text, and how you can bring glory to your Father in heaven.

PRAY THIS:
Pray to your Father that the Holy Spirit would empower the Word of Christ to become true in your hearts, your lives, this church, and this world. Pray the Word back to God. For he always answers us when we pray according to his will (1 John 5:14). And the best way to pray according to his will is to pray his Word!

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GOSPEL CITY | JAMES

SUNDAY | MAY 10

READ: JAMES 1:1-18

MEDITATE ON:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

V5

DISCUSS THIS:

What is something hard that has happened in your life this week? What does this passage teach you regarding how you should respond to the various trials in your life?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, help us to cherish the fruit that trials produce more than the comfort that they cost us. Lavish upon us the type of wisdom that can see your goodness in the midst of our trials. Help us to remain steadfast, for our trials are temporary but your love is eternal. Forgive us for our sinful desires. Keep us Lord, for if it were not for your word of truth we would surely be lured away to our own destruction. Amen.

MONDAY | MAY 11

READ: JAMES 1:19-27

MEDITATE ON:

"If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart,
this person's religion is worthless. "

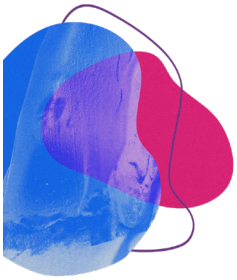
V26

DISCUSS THIS:

Think about your words and actions over this past week. What are some things that you have done that reflect what you believe about God? What are some things you have done that contradict what you say you believe about God?

PRAY THIS:

Oh Father, we believe! Help our unbelief. Forgive us for being so quick to speak, and so quick to anger. You have given us your precious Holy Spirit and the words of life, yet our hearts are still filthy. Forgive us Lord. Help us believe your Word, and help us obey it. May the world know that we are your disciples by the way we love one another. Amen.



TUESDAY | MAY 12

READ: JAMES 2:1-13

MEDITATE ON:

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well."

V8

DISCUSS THIS:

What types of people are you tempted to discriminate against (black, white, rich, poor, Democrat, Republican, "masker," "non-masker")? Why is discrimination a violation of the two greatest commandments? (For Kids: Is there anyone in your life who you have a hard time getting along with? What are some ways you could show love to them today?)

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, help us to view people the way Jesus does. Forgive us for sinfully viewing some people as less than ourselves. Help us to meditate on what it means to love you with all of our hearts and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Reveal to us where we fail to obey your Word. And help us to be doers of this word, and not just hearers. Thank you for your mercy. Amen.

WEDNESDAY | MAY 13

READ: JAMES 2:14-26 + EPHESIANS 2:8-9

MEDITATE ON:

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?"

JAMES 2:14

DISCUSS THIS:

How are we saved? How do the truths in these two passages fit together? (If you need help, discuss what this phrase might mean: We are saved by faith alone, but faith that saves is never alone).

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, thank you for the gospel. What incredible grace it is to be saved by faith alone. Forgive us for our sinful tendency to confuse saving faith with passive agreement. Give us faith like Abraham! Help us to honor you with our lips, our hearts, and our lives. Help us believe, and through our faith produce in us a life of godly works. Amen.

THURSDAY | MAY 14

READ: JAMES 3:1-18

MEDITATE ON:

"From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

V10

DISCUSS THIS:

This passage debunks the phrase "sticks and stone may break my bones but words will never hurt me." Why are words so powerful? What are some ways we can tame our tongues? (Hint: James thinks wisdom has something to do with it. Also see Matthew 12:33-37)

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, forgive us for the evil that is in our hearts. Purify our hearts so that we can tame our tongues. The ability to speak and communicate with language is a privilege unique to man. Forgive us for using such a gift as a weapon of mass destruction. Help us to use our words to build each other up with the Words of Life that you have given us. Amen.

FRIDAY | MAY 15

READ: JAMES 4:1-17

MEDITATE ON:

"What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?"

V1

DISCUSS THIS:

This passage has a lot of convicting commands. What are some specific ways you can be a "doer" of this passage? Listen to the Holy Spirit and discuss with one another what you need to do to obey.

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, forgive us for our adulterous desires and our selfish prayers. We thank you, for even while we were your enemies Christ died for us. Help us to know you and know ourselves, that we may be humble. Forgive us for our ignorant pride. Help us draw near to you. We thank you for your grace. Help us to obey what you have commanded. Amen.

SATURDAY | MAY 16

READ: JAMES 5:1-20

MEDITATE ON:

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

V10

DISCUSS THIS:

How has the Holy Spirit used James to convict you this week? James is full of weighty commands, but it ends with a reminder to rely on the Lord through the power of prayer! Hearing without doing is sin, but trying to do without relying on God is also sin. So discuss how God has convicted you through James, confess your sin to each other and to the Lord, then pray that He would help you "do."

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, we thank you for your Word, and we thank you for the gift of prayer, which helps us obey what you have commanded us. Forgive us for our sinful disobedience and our sinful neglect of prayer. Teach us to pray like Elijah. For if his prayers can bring forth droughts and storms, how much more can our prayers bring forth godly works? Thank you for the book of James. Help us to obey what we have heard. Amen.