



UN *Women's Bible Study*
FRACTURED
THE BOOK OF JAMES

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Overview:

A 4-week series on how to avoid the dangers of fractured faith from the book of James.

Lessons:

1. Intro to the Book of James
2. Listening and Doing (James 1-2)
3. Taming the Tongue (James 3)
4. Three Warnings (James 4-5)



INTRO TO THE BOOK OF JAMES

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James, the leader of the early Christian church wrote this book to challenge Jewish Christians to prove their genuine faith through authentic living.

- James was the half brother to _____ and the leader of the early church. He wrote the book to _____ believers to encourage them in their new faith. James 1:1
- James warned against _____ faith – a divided loyalty between loving God and loving the _____. James 1:6-8, Matthew 6:24
- James puts an emphasis on _____ faith – a new heart that produces authentic works. Galatians 5:22-23, Ezekiel 36:26-27, James 2:17-18

DISCUSSION:

1. *What do you think it was like for James to be the brother of Jesus? Have you lived in the shadow of a sibling/friend? Share the pros and cons of having a stellar sibling/friend.*
2. *Define in your own words what fractured faith means. What are some of the cultural issues that have been hard for you to navigate or understand with biblical principles in mind?*
3. *Read James 1:6-8 and Matthew 6:24. What does loyalty mean to you? Why won't it work to have one foot in the world and one foot in with God?*
4. *In your opinion, why does it matter how we live? What do our choices/values communicate to those around us?*
5. *Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Ezekiel 36:26-27. What's the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? What does a stony heart look like? What does a tender, responsive heart look like?*
6. *Read James 2:17-18. What does James mean that our faith is useless if it doesn't impact the way we live? How have you seen Christians trample on the Gospel due to their actions?*
7. *Share how your life has changed since putting your faith in Jesus. What areas of your life are still fractured and need to change?*

LISTENING AND DOING

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For some Christians, the pursuit of God is only a Sunday thing – leaving Monday through Saturday to live according to their own desires.

- Fractured faith means your _____ inform your views – on modesty, success, even social issues – rather than letting _____ have the loudest voice. James 1:21
- A heart _____ can't stand. The double-minded are lost, confused, and easily _____. James 1:22-24
- Genuine faith means _____ obedience – simply read God's word and obey what it says. This is the _____ to lasting joy and peace. James 1:25, James 2:14-16, James 2:17-18

DISCUSSION:

1. *How would you describe yourself: rule follower, rule breaker or in between?*
2. *How have you typically made decisions about things like dating/marriage, modesty or social issues?*
3. *Read James 1:21. What are some things we need to get rid of once we put our trust in Jesus? What does it look like to humbly accept God's word?*
4. *How have you experienced confusion/ loss of peace when you've gone against God's way? Are there some areas you don't want to turn over to God? Explain.*
5. *Read James 1:22-24. What does James mean that we're only fooling ourselves if we don't obey God?*
6. *When you establish rules (as a parent, worker, etc) why do you have them? What does it communicate when others don't obey them? Why does God have rules for us? What does our unwillingness to obey communicate to God?*
7. *Read James 1:25. Why does obeying God's word set us free?*
8. *Read James 2:14-16. What is the attitude of the person James refers to in this passage?*
9. *Moving forward, what will you do to read God's word more?*

TAMING THE TONGUE

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Our words can speak life or death-we get to choose.

- The _____ is a practical example of the dangers of fractured faith: praising Jesus on Sunday and _____, belittling, and slandering the other six days. James 3:3-10

- Godly _____ is demonstrated through carefully chosen words. Understanding the _____ of words, you speak words of life, not death. James 3:17-18, Ephesians 4:29

- Use the WORD acronym:
 - Work through your _____
 - Order your _____
 - Remember _____ principles
 - Deliver the _____

DISCUSSION:

1. *Share a time your words did damage to someone you care about or share a time someone's words did damage to you. Why are words so powerful?*
2. *Read James 3:3-10. Why is the tongue so wicked and hard to control? How is the tongue such an obvious indicator of what's in your heart?*
3. *Read James 3:17-18. Identify all the traits of godly wisdom mentioned in these verses. How can you do better at choosing your words wisely?*
4. *Read Ephesians 4:29. What do you think it means that your words should benefit others? What does that look like when you have to confront someone?*
5. *Review the WORD acronym. What happens when you just act on your emotions with no thought? Why is it important to order your thoughts before expressing something?*
6. *Make a list of other biblical principles that apply to how you should use your words in relationships.*
7. *Moving forward, how will you avoid a fractured approach with your words-lifting up Jesus on Sundays but tearing down people the other six days?*

THREE WARNINGS

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The book of James concludes with some final warnings and some concluding thoughts on how to love others.

- James warns against the hedonistic view of seeking _____ above all else. James 4:1-3, 7-8
- James warns against the judgmental, _____ types who elevate their perspective over God – who is the only _____ judge. James 4:11-12
- James warns the _____ who act as though they have full command of the _____. James 4:13-17

DISCUSSION:

1. *How would you describe our culture today. Identify some positive and negative things. How do you see the hedonistic view influencing your friends and family?*
2. *Read James 4:1-3. What do you think James means about coming to God with the wrong motives? How have you demanded or expected things from God?*
3. *Read James 4:7-8. What does it look like to come to God on his terms, not ours when it comes to prayer requests? Share a time you prayed for something and later realized that it was a blessing that God didn't give it to you.*
4. *Read James 4:11-12. How have you seen Christians violate God's law by how they treat others inside and outside the Church? How does this passage challenge you?*
5. *Read James 4:13-17. How have you violated this warning in your life? What have you learned when you've tried to control the future?*
6. *Read James 5:16. How will you incorporate this verse into your life? What steps are you going to take to live an unfractured life moving forward?*

