



NAVIGATE • UNIT 2, LESSON 1

Study Passage: James 1:2-18 | Memory Passage: James 1:5-8

As we learned in unit 1, the Epistle of James was written by James to scattered Jewish believers. It exhorts Christians for all time to live in such a way that their saving faith is vibrant and alive, not anemic or dead. James gives practical, obligatory maxims that, when put into practice, produce a joyful, Christian lifestyle that is thriving and maturing in God. We are not told our lives are free of trials, yet our key verse, James 1:2, admonishes us to be joyful in the midst of tests.

READ & OBSERVE

Begin your study with prayer. Read James 1, and then read the whole Epistle of James if time permits. James lays out more than fifty imperatives or commands to the believers, and as you reread chapter one, circle all the commands that you find.

Asking questions about the study passage initiates a desire to know more of God's Word. Learning to ask good questions helps us gain a greater understanding of the Bible. Use these observation questions as examples when you read the Bible study passage. Let your inquiring mind learn more of God's ways.

1. Why should our trials result in joy?

2. Why is steadfastness important?

3. How should we ask for wisdom?

4. What is the result of a faithless prayer?

 Slowly reread James 1:2-18 again and mark these 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. Read the Study Keys in the Blue Letter Bible to learn how to do a word study.

Trials reveal how well we know God and how much we trust Him. In such times, do we know we can run to God for help and wisdom, or is our knowledge of Him lacking, causing us to falter in our faith? A right understanding of truth is critical to our faith!

6. Complete this sentence using your own phrase that carries the essential meaning. A Bible dictionary can help you.

In times of trial, ask God for wisdom, since He gives it generously to all without...

 7. What does James mean when he refers to double-mindedness? Find the definition of **double-minded** in *Vine's Expository Dictionary* at blueletterbible.org.

5. WORD STUDY

trials/temptations (James 1:2)

Strong's #

Greek word:

Meaning:

A simile is a literary device used to compare two items and to help give clarity to the text. Do you see the comparison in James 1:6-8 between a double-minded man and a wave of the sea? Contemplate the imagery of a double-minded man. Picture a raging sea and imagine a ball out on the water in a howling storm. What is happening to the ball? This comparison helps bring a fuller understanding of an unstable man who lacks confidence in God and does not depend on Jesus Christ, our Assurance.



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

Remember, James knew well the teachings of Jesus, and he reiterated many words of Jesus throughout his epistle to the scattered Jewish believers. Throughout this study, you will see the writings of James reflect the teachings of Jesus, specifically the Beatitudes.

🔑 Jesus' words in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:10-12) is our second memory passage, and it is reinforced in James 1:2. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and mark keywords: **blessed** and **rejoice**. Jesus says we are blessed when we are persecuted, and then we are to rejoice. This goes against human nature, but His ways are not like our ways. Read the references below that depict persecution and a resulting blessing for which we can rejoice.

1. In Exodus 3:7, you can see that God's people were afflicted, oppressed, and miserable. **What blessing came to them in Exodus 14:26-31 after their afflictions?**

2. 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?**

3. **Compare James 1:12 with Revelation 2:10.**

Spend a few minutes reviewing the second memory passage this week, Matthew 5:10-12. Persecution in the form of ridicule, harassment, oppression, or even death for righteousness' sake may befall us, and joy should be our response.

BEATITUDE Matthew 5:10-12

READ & OBSERVE

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

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

5. **From where do temptations come?**

6. We live in a world that says, "Follow your heart," which communicates the idea that if it feels right, it must be right. **What will following the enticements of your heart ultimately lead to?**

7. 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. **Write a summary statement for the study passage, James 1:2-18.**
