

SCHEDULE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9 : 1 5 - 9 : 5 0 / 6 : 3 0 - 7 : 0 5

MOVE TO WORSHIP CENTER

9 : 5 0 - 9 : 5 5 / 7 : 0 5 - 7 : 1 0

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 : 5 5 - 1 0 : 0 0 / 7 : 1 0 - 7 : 1 5

MESSAGE

1 0 : 0 0 - 1 0 : 4 5 / 7 : 1 5 - 8 : 0 0

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENJOY
OUR STUDY VERSES SET TO MUSIC

TRUTH & ***LIES***



WEEK 1

Discussion Group Questions

TRUTH & LIES



1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- a. Please share your name with the group.
- b. What is something you believed as a child that you later discovered wasn't true?

2. SCHEDULE:

- a. Please check out the schedule in the front of your notebook. Notice that you're given 5 minutes between discussion group time and the message. How many times do you think you can walk around the worship center in 5 minutes?
- b. What benefits might you experience if you come to your discussion group a few minutes early whenever possible?
- c. We'd like to honor your time, so we'll try to stick as closely to the schedule as possible. In order to help with that, Jonna (or someone) will text your leader with a 5-minute warning before you need to close in prayer.

3. DAILY INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME:

- a. Please start each study time with prayer in order to invite the Lord to be part of your study time. He wants to meet with you and teach you from His word.
- b. We will have 5 days of individual study time. We recommend that you spend time in study each day rather than trying to get it in all at once so that you can get the most out of your study time. (Though we believe you'll get the most out of the study if you complete all the homework, even if you don't get it all finished, you're still totally welcome here. Please come anyway.)
- c. Study questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- a. When you hear the word "truth," what is the first word or thought that comes to mind?
- b. What is one area of life where it can be especially easy to believe something that isn't true about:
 - i. Ourselves?
 - ii. Others?
 - iii. God?
- c. Looking over the topics for the next 6 weeks, what is one topic you hope to understand better? How has that topic been a struggle for you?

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you're about to hear.
- b. Please ask the Lord to help you open your heart and mind to anything He wants to change in you over the next several weeks.

Jeremiah 17:9, Hebrews 4:12, James 1:1-8



2. _____ the truth in complete faith. God will _____ give us what we need to grow in maturity. (James 1:5-8)

WEEK 1

Homework

ROOTING OUT DOUBT
AND EMBRACING TRUST

Jeremiah 17:9, Hebrews 4:12, James 1:1-8



DAY ONE

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to open your heart as you study His word and help you see your circumstances from His perspective.

MEMORIZE: Jeremiah 17:9 - *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”*

Please write Jeremiah 17:9 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: Today we will take a big picture look at the deceit of doubt and the truth of faith. Before you read these passages, please consider a current situation you’re going through, or one you’ve been through where you were tempted to doubt God’s power, wisdom, goodness, or love. Please consider your situation through the lens of these verses and see how it impacts your perspective. Please read Jeremiah 17:9, Hebrews 4:12, and James 1:1-8 and answer the following:

1. What is the natural perspective of the world toward trials of life?

2. *What are natural views people have of God that are contrary to what these passages teach concerning our trials?

3. *How do these Spirit-inspired words of God answer the world’s natural views?

4. Please consider the situation you thought of in the opening paragraph. How do these passages affect your perspective?

Please close this time in prayer and tell the Lord any ways your circumstances have either affected your doubt or your faith or both.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to reveal to you the truth of His word and to give you discernment as you study.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put Jeremiah 17:9 in order.

above all things

The heart is deceitful

who can understand it?

and desperately sick

STUDY: Today we'll get an overview of 2 verses that will help us understand truth and lies for the whole study. As you go through these passages, please also consider them in light of the trials of life and how we can struggle with doubt... and what truth we need to embrace in order to trust the Lord through the trials.

From Jeremiah 17:9:

1. Please rewrite the verse in your own words. What aspect of this verse is hardest to grasp?

2. *Please compare this verse with Proverbs 28:26. How does Jeremiah 17:9 explain why trusting in our own mind makes us a fool?

3. Please describe a circumstance in your life that helps you see the deception of your heart.

From Hebrews 4:12:

4. Ephesians 6:17 calls the word of God "the sword of the Spirit." How does Hebrews 4:12 give further understanding to what that means?

5. *For the following examples, please explain how the accompanying scripture discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

a. A person says, “It’s okay to do what you want to do. God just wants you to be happy.”

i. Romans 6:1-2

ii. Romans 6:15-26

b. “I have to take care of me first.”

i. Philippians 2:1-4

ii. Galatians 5:13-15

c. “If that person would not have done what he did, I would not have had to retaliate.”

i. James 1:13-14

ii. James 4:1-3

As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord any area where you think you might be believing a lie rather than holding to the truth. Ask Him to reveal His truth and ask Him to help you anchor yourself in it.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please invite the Lord to reveal His truth to you, and to help you release any beliefs you’ve had that don’t align with His word.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete Jeremiah 17:9.

The _____ is deceitful above _____ things, and desperately
_____ ; who can _____ it?

STUDY: One thing that can shake our trust in the Lord more than anything is the trials we experience. Yet, if we study every person in the bible, no matter how faithful or unfaithful they were, we will not find one person who never suffered. Truly, Jesus Himself suffered more than anyone. Today, we'll look at James 1:1-4 to help us root out the doubt that comes with trials, and to gain God's perspective on our trials so that we can trust Him through them. Please read James 1:1-4 and answer the following:

1. James was the half-brother of Jesus and a major leader in the early church. How might a person who took himself too seriously open his letter versus the way James opened his letter in verse 1?

2. *Please consider some trials you've been through or are going through now.

a. What command does James give for you in verse 2?

b. What are some ways we normally respond to our trials?

3. From the message:

a. How does the Biblical view of joy versus the world's view of joy impact your understanding of verses 2-4?

b. How does focusing on God's eternal facts impact our feelings?

c. How does focusing on our feelings impact our view of the facts?

4. What are the benefits of seeing our trials as James advises according to verses 3-4?

5. What perspective do the following passages bring to how we can view our trials?

a. Philippians 1:29

b. 1 Peter 1:6-7

c. Romans 5:3-5

6. *When you're tempted to doubt God because of your circumstances, what truths from His word that you studied today help you root out the deception and embrace His faithfulness through it? What good is the Lord doing in your life through it?

Please close this time in prayer and tell the Lord how today's passages impacted your perspective of trials.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer, asking the Lord to expose your doubts and help you to surrender them to Him in trust.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete Jeremiah 17:9.

The _____ is _____ above _____ things, and
_____; who can _____ it?

STUDY: When do we need God's wisdom the most? When we're going through trials. When do we struggle with doubt the most? When we're going through trials. Today, we'll look at what God wants us to do in the trials. Please read James 1:5-8 and answer the following:

1. Why do you think James encourages us to pray for wisdom right after talking about trials?

2. *When you're going through a trial, which of the following attributes of God do you tend to struggle with and what questions are raised in your heart and mind about:

a. His power to handle the situation?

b. His knowledge and wisdom to know what will help the situation?

c. His love and compassion to care for you?

3. For James 1:5:

a. Please rewrite James 1:5 in your own words.

b. Please write the opposite of James 1:5 also.

c. Which version of James 1:5 do you gravitate toward when you're going through trials and why?

4. Why do you think faith is so important in asking God for wisdom?

5. The one who doubts is defined as "one who is double-souled, who vacillates between self and God." What would a doubting person do with a gift of wisdom from God if He did give it?

6. *Verse 8 says a person who doubts “is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
- a. What thoughts do you think this person might struggle with that make him unstable?

- b. According to James 4:8-9, what is the solution for overcoming a double mind?

7. *What do you know to be true about God that would help you not to be “double-souled”?

Please close this time in prayer, asking the Lord to “teach you His way that you may walk in His truth, and to give you an undivided heart, that you might truly worship Him” (Psalm 86:11). Please tell Him any area of your life where you have trouble having a single-souled mind for Him.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer and ask the Lord to reveal more of what deception He needs to root out of your heart so that He can replace it with truth.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete Jeremiah 17:9.

T H I D A A T, A D S; W C U I?

How do you see this verse to be true?

What hope does Hebrews 4:12 give you in answer to this verse?

STUDY: Today we'll study a passage that specifically refers to the trap of deception we can fall into as it relates to rooting out doubt and embracing trust. Please ask the Lord to enlighten your heart to any area of your feelings, desires, or choices causing you to be deceived, and ask Him to help you let go of the deception and embrace His truth.

Please use Ephesians 4:13-14 to allow the Spirit of the Lord to expose deception in your heart and to help you fully embrace truth from His word. Please read Ephesians 4:11-12 for context but focus on verses 13-14.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. Please list the action words from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer to others (if applicable):

3. *According to this passage, in what ways can we be deceived?

4. According to this passage, what truth helps us overcome the deception?

5. *How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. In what circumstances do you find yourself being drawn to your feelings or desires rather than the truth?

b. What truth from God's word gives you hope?

c. What obstacles do you need to overcome?

d. How will you specifically change the narrative in your mind to align with God's word when the deceptive thoughts pop up?

Please write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you overcome the specific things you talked about in your answer to #5. Please also tell Him what you know to be true about Him that gives you hope.

James 1:9-18



2. Don't believe the lie that pressure _____ sin: pressure simply _____ our sinful hearts. Though God allows pressure, He never tempts us to sin. (13-15)

3. Don't believe the lie that God isn't _____: His character and promises are always _____. You can trust Him. (16-18)

WEEK 2

Homework

ROOTING OUT WORLDLY PERSPECTIVES
AND EMBRACING GOD'S GOODNESS

James 1:9-18



DAY ONE

PRAY: Begin by asking the Lord to give you eyes to clearly see His truth and your own heart as you study.

MEMORIZE: James 1:13 - *“Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.”*

Please write James 1:13 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: Read James 1:9-12. Today we will focus on the key truth that God has a good purpose in every pressure-filled situation in life. Answer the study questions and reflect on how this truth can change your perspective in your own pressure-filled situations.

1. *James describes both the poor and the rich believer in verses 9-11. What do these verses teach us about the temporary nature of our circumstances? How might pressure tempt you to place your worth, identity, or security in your circumstances?

2. James uses the picture of a flower that quickly withers to describe the temporary nature of earthly circumstances. What are some things in your life that can feel very important right now but will not ultimately last? How can remembering their temporary nature change the way you respond to them?

3. Think about a current pressure-filled situation in your life. What are you tempted to believe about that situation? Do you tend to think, “This shouldn’t be happening,” “This isn’t fair,” or “I just need this to change so I can be okay”? How might God be inviting you to see this pressure differently?

4. *Verse 12 says that the person who perseveres under trial is blessed. How can someone be blessed while experiencing something difficult? What does this teach you about where true blessing and hope are found?

5. Verse 12 points us beyond our present circumstances to the “crown of life” God has promised. How would keeping eternity in view change the way you think about and respond to a pressure you are facing today?
-

Spend a few minutes thanking God that your circumstances are temporary, but His purposes and promises are eternal. Confess any ways you have allowed your circumstances to determine your worth, security, or hope. Ask Him to help you trust that He is using your present pressures to grow your faith and prepare you for eternity. Ask Him for the grace to persevere rather than escape, control, or complain.

DAY TWO

PRAY: As you begin today, ask the Lord to give you greater understanding of the ways He wants to mold and shape your heart through the pressure He has allowed in your life.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put James 1:13 in order.

for God cannot

when he is tempted

Let no one say

be tempted with evil

“I am being tempted by God”

and he himself tempts no one.

STUDY: Read James 1:13-15. Today’s key truth is God allows pressure, but He never tempts you to sin. Answer the questions and reflect on what your own pressure-filled situations reveal about your heart.

1. *In verse 13, James makes it clear that God does not tempt us to sin. When life becomes difficult, what are you most tempted to blame for your sinful responses - God, other people, your circumstances, or something else? Why do you think you are tempted to look outside yourself for the cause?
-

2. Verse 14 says that we are tempted when we are “lured and enticed by our own desire.” Think about a recent time when you responded sinfully under pressure. What did your response reveal about what you wanted, valued, or felt you needed in that moment?
-

3. James describes a progression: Desire >>> Deception >>> Disobedience >>> Death. Think about a recent pressure-filled situation and trace your response through this progression. What desire was present? What lie did you begin to believe? How did that lead you toward a sinful response?

4. When pressure exposes something we want or fear, we often respond by pursuing self-pity, self-rule, self-comfort, or self-protection. Which of these responses do you most naturally turn toward when life gets hard? How does that response reveal a desire to trust yourself or control your circumstances rather than trust and submit to the Lord?

5. *It is easy to think, "If my circumstances would change, then I would respond differently." How does James challenge that way of thinking? Instead of asking, "How can I get out of this pressure?" what would it look like to ask, "Lord, what is this pressure revealing about my heart, and how do You want me to respond to You?"

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and reveal the desires that are leading you away from trusting Christ. Confess the sinful responses that your pressure has exposed. Be specific about the desires, lies, and responses you see. Thank God that your circumstances do not have to control your response. Ask Him to help you surrender your desire for control, comfort, protection, or whatever else is competing with your trust in Him. Pray for a heart that quickly repents, willingly submits, and trusts the Lord in the middle of pressure.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you recognize any lies you are tempted to believe about His character and to strengthen your confidence in what is true about Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13.

"Let _____ one say _____ he is _____, 'I am being _____ by God,' for God cannot be _____ with evil, and he himself _____ no one.

STUDY: Read James 1:16-18. Today we will focus on the key truth that God's character and promises are always true. You can trust Him. How does knowing who God is help you respond with faith when the pressures of life tempt you to doubt His goodness?

1. *James begins with the warning, “Do not be deceived.” What lies about God are you most tempted to believe when life is difficult? What circumstances tend to make those lies seem believable?

2. According to James 1:17, what does God give, and what does this reveal about His character? What words or phrases in this verse stand out to you about who God is?

3. James says that God is the “Father of lights” and that there is “no variation or shadow due to change.” What does this teach you about God’s character? Why is His unchanging nature important when your circumstances are constantly changing?

4. Verse 18 reminds us that God chose to give us new life “by the word of truth.” What does this reveal about God’s heart toward you? How does remembering what God has already done for you in Christ strengthen your confidence that He is good?

5. *Think about a current situation in which you are tempted to question God’s goodness. What is the lie you are tempted to believe? What truth about God from James 1:16-18 can you choose to believe instead? How would trusting that truth change the way you respond?

Praise God for His unchanging goodness and faithfulness. Confess any ways you have believed lies about His character or questioned His goodness because of difficult circumstances. Thank Him for the good gifts He has given you, especially the gift of new life through His Word of truth. Ask Him to help you believe what is true about Him and trust Him even when your circumstances are difficult.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to reveal any lies you have believed and to help you recognize and respond to His truth with trust and faith.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13.

“Let _____ one say _____ he is _____, ‘I _____ being _____ by God,’ for _____ cannot be _____ with evil, and _____ himself _____ no one.

STUDY: Read James 1:9-18. Review the three truths we have studied this week. Use the questions below to consider what God is teaching you about pressure, your heart, and His character.

1. *Consider the three lies that we have studied this week:

- Pressure isn’t purposeful.
- My circumstances cause my sin.
- God isn’t good when life is hard.

Which of these lies are you most tempted to believe? How has believing this lie affected the way you think, feel, or respond?

2. Think about a specific pressure you are facing right now. How might God be using that pressure to produce steadfastness and maturity, expose what is happening in your heart, and deepen your dependence on Him? What is He inviting you to learn or trust?

3. What truth from James 1:9-18 do you most need to remember when you face this pressure? How does that truth correct the lie you are tempted to believe?

4. *What specific response of faith is God calling you to make? What would it look like this week to trust His purpose, surrender your desires, and believe His goodness, rather than responding according to the lie?

Reflect on what God has shown you throughout this week. Write a prayer to the Lord. Confess the lies you have believed and thank Him for revealing His truth. Surrender your current pressures, fears, desires, and unanswered questions into His hands. Ask Him to produce steadfastness and maturity, expose and transform the desires of your heart, and deepen your dependence on Him. Pray that your life would increasingly reflect joyful trust in God’s wisdom, goodness, and purposes, no matter what you face.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Thank the Lord for the truth of His word and ask Him to help you to continue to have wisdom to see the ways you have been believing the lies of the world and the enemy.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete James 1:13.

L N O S W H I T, I A B T B G, F G C B T W E, A H H T N O.

Why do you think the word “tempt” is repeated so many times? What point is James trying to make?

STUDY: Today we’ll study a passage that specifically refers to the trap of deception we can fall into as it relates to rooting out worldly perspectives and embracing God’s goodness. Please ask the Lord to enlighten your heart to any area of your feelings, desires, or choices causing you to be deceived, and ask Him to help you let go of the deception and embrace His truth.

Please use Romans 12:2 to allow the Spirit of the Lord to expose deception in your heart and to help you fully embrace truth from His word.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. Please list the action words from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer to others (if applicable):

3. *According to this passage, in what ways can we be deceived?

4. According to this passage, what truth helps us overcome deception?

5. *How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. In what circumstances do you find yourself being drawn to your feelings or desires rather than the truth?

b. What truth from God's word gives you hope?

c. What obstacles do you need to overcome?

d. How will you specifically change the narrative in your mind to align with God's word when the deceptive thoughts pop up?

Please write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you overcome the specific things you talked about in your answer to #5. Please also tell Him what you know to be true about Him that gives you hope.

James 1:19-25



2. Head knowledge alone _____ the hearer. Heart transformation _____
perseverance which leads to true freedom. (22-25)

WEEK 3

Homework

ROOTING OUT HEAD KNOWLEDGE AND
EMBRACING HEART TRANSFORMATION

James 1:19-25



DAY ONE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer and ask the Lord to show you where you struggle with hearing the word but not applying the word.

MEMORIZE: James 1:14 - *“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”*

Please write James 1:14 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: Today we'll take a look at the full passage, James 1:19-25. Understanding scripture in context can bring a greater depth to a verse's meaning rather than when looked at by itself. As you study this passage, please consider how deception blurs our spiritual vision when we take in God's word for information, but not for transformation.

1. What deceit is described in this passage? How does it deceive?

2. *Please use the following scriptures to explain the importance of obedience to verse 19:

a. Proverbs 15:31-32

b. Proverbs 16:20

c. Proverbs 18:13

d. Proverbs 19:20

3. This passage gives an example of someone looking at his face in a mirror but then forgetting what he looks like when he walks away. Can you give another example of someone who hears the word but doesn't do it?

4. How would you summarize this passage?

5. *What is one attribute of God that helps you want to apply this passage to your life?

Please personalize Psalm 119:34-37 in prayer to the Lord as you close this time with Him.

"Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways."

DAY TWO

PRAY: 1 Corinthians 2:14 says that the things of God are "spiritually discerned." Please open this time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding to apply this passage to your life.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put James 1:13-14 in order.

Verse 13:

for God cannot

when he is tempted

Let no one say

be tempted with evil

"I am being tempted by God"

and he himself tempts no one.

Verse 14:

is tempted

and enticed

But each person

by his own desire.

when he is lured

STUDY: Today we'll look at verses 19-21. Verses 19-20 are often used to help people understand the problem with anger toward other people. We'll see in context that the passage here is more focused on our relationship with God and His word. As you read James 1:19-21 and answer the following questions, please consider how we can be deceived in our relationship with the Lord when we don't apply these words to our lives.

1. Please read verse 18 and explain what James was commanding believers to “know” (in verse 19) concerning God’s word.

2. How does NOT knowing the truth of James 1:18 make it hard for us to be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger?

3. *When we’re not applying God’s word:

- a. What are we quick to hear instead?

- b. How does it impact our speech, both toward ourselves and toward others?

- c. Why would not applying God’s word make us angry?

4. *Please consider the following 3 things about righteous anger (from Uprooting Anger by Robert Jones) and explain why the unrighteous anger of man might struggle with them.

- a. Righteous anger is angry about actual sin, not just preference.

- b. Righteous anger is focused on God’s Kingdom, His rights, and His concerns... Not my kingdom, my rights, and my concerns.

c. Righteous anger does not respond to sin with sin.

5. How does the anger of man become an obstacle to receiving the “implanted word”?

6. What do the following verses teach you about why the word keeps us from “filthiness and rampant wickedness”?

a. 1 Peter 1:22-25

b. John 17:17

c. Psalm 19:7-9

7. What do you know about God that makes Him and His word worth listening to?

Please close this time in prayer and tell the Lord what you learned about hearing from Him and His word. Talk to Him about any area of your life in which you’re struggling to listen.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer by opening your heart to the Lord and asking Him to teach you from His word.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13-14.

“Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, “I am _____ tempted by _____,” for God _____ be tempted with _____, and he _____ tempts no one. But each _____ is tempted _____ he is lured and _____ by his own _____.”

STUDY: Today we’ll look at the importance of not just hearing the word but applying it to our lives. Consider a person who reads that she should not drive over a bridge labeled, “Danger: Do not enter”, and yet does not pay attention. Consider also the motives for why God wants us to hear AND do rather than just hear. Is His command to apply His word good, evil, or indifferent? Please read James 1:22-24 looking for the reasons God wants us to hear and apply His word.

1. What reason is given for why we should be more than a hearer of the word in verse 22? Why do you think that is?

2. The illustration given in verses 23-24 says that the person who is just a hearer of the word is “like a man who looks INTENTLY at his natural face in a mirror.” One definition of the Greek word for looking is “to consider attentively.” Why would a person consider the word attentively, but not apply it?

3. *Please explain how the following heart struggles become obstacles to applying the word to our lives:

a. A heart of self-rule

b. A heart that self-protects

c. A heart that struggles with self-pity or shame

d. A heart that pursues selfish pleasures

4. Please use the following passages to explain why being a doer of the word is beneficial:

a. Psalm 19:7-9

b. Psalm 119:104

c. Psalm 18:30

d. John 8:31-32

5. Please use what you learned from the scriptures in question #3 to explain how they can help each of the heart struggles to overcome their obstacles.

a. A heart of self-rule

b. A heart that self-protects

c. A heart that struggles with self-pity or shame

d. A heart that pursues selfish pleasures

Please close this time in prayer. Share with the Lord what your heart struggle is and ask Him to help you apply His word so that you can overcome.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you have a deeper understanding of His law of liberty.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13-14.

“Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, “I am _____ by _____,” for God _____ be _____ with _____, and he _____ tempts _____ one. But each _____ is tempted _____ he is _____ and _____ by his own _____.”

STUDY: So far we’ve learned that God wants us to be quick to hear His word but not just hear it. He wants us to apply it to our lives. Today, we’ll get a better understanding of what being a doer of His word means. Please read the whole passage, James 1:19-25, and answer the following specifically in regard to verse 25.

1. Please rephrase verse 25 in your own words.

2. *The Greek word for “looks” in verse 25 means, “to stoop down, to look carefully, inspect curiously.” Please share the scenario in John 20:1-11 where this word is used (verses 5 and 11) and explain what deeper insight this gives you for understanding the “looking” in verse 25.

3. How is the type of “looking” in verse 25 different than the type of “looking” in verses 23-24?

4. What insight do the following verses give you about the “Law of liberty” (the law of freedom)?

a. Romans 8:2

b. Galatians 2:19-20

c. Galatians 3:13

d. Galatians 5:18

5. The phrase “and perseveres” is from the Greek word paraménō, which means “continue, remain in a close relationship.”

a. What are you tempted to “remain close to” when you’re not remaining close to God’s word?

b. How does remaining close help when you’re struggling with doubt, fear, anger, anxiety, or sin?

6. *What promise is given to those who hear the word and do what it says? Why would God NOT bless our disobedience?

7. What do you see from studying James 1:25 that motivates you to pursue knowing and obeying God’s word?

Please use John 8:31-32 to close in prayer, asking the Lord to help you abide in His word as His disciple, and to know the truth that sets you free.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer and ask the Lord to reveal more of what deception He needs to root out of your heart so that He can replace it with truth.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete James 1:13-14.

L N O S W H I T , I A B T B G , F G C B T W E , A H H T N O . B E P I T W H I L A E B H O D .

According to this passage, who is responsible for our struggle with sin?

STUDY: Today, we'll study a passage that specifically refers to the trap of deception we can fall into as it relates to rooting out head knowledge and embracing heart transformation. Please ask the Lord to enlighten your heart to any area of your feelings, desires, or choices causing you to be deceived, and ask Him to help you let go of the deception and embrace His truth.

Please use Colossians 2:8-9 to allow the Spirit of the Lord to expose deception in your heart and to help you fully embrace truth from His word.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. Please list the action words from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer to others:

3. *According to this passage, in what ways can we be deceived?

4. According to this passage, what truth helps us overcome the deception?

5. *How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. In what circumstances do you find yourself being drawn to your feelings or desires rather than the truth?

b. What truth from God's word gives you hope?

c. What obstacles do you need to overcome?

d. How will you specifically change the narrative in your mind to align with God's word when the deceptive thoughts pop up?

Please write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you overcome the specific things you talked about in your answer to #5. Please also tell Him what you know to be true about Him that gives you hope.

Listening Guide

James 3:1-12



2. Words are _____ and difficult to control. (5-8)

3. Words have a source. They _____ our hearts. (9-12)

WEEK 4

Homework

ROOTING OUT CARELESS WORDS
AND EMBRACING REDEEMED WORDS

James 3:1-12



DAY ONE

PRAY: Psalm 141:3 – “Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips.” Ask the Lord to guide you this week as you learn what it means to keep watch over and guard your words.

MEMORIZE: James 1:15 - “Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Please write James 1:15 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: God has given us the gift of language so that He can reveal Himself to us, so that we can respond to Him, and so that we can interact with one another. The ability to talk is one of the ways that Adam and Eve were unique from the rest of creation. They could talk to each other and to God. Every word was perfect until Satan used words to deceive and manipulate them to defy God’s authority over their lives. Ever since that moment, our ability to communicate in purity was lost. In our study this week, we will learn some hard truths about our words from James 3. We will see that our words are powerful, that words can be destructive and difficult to control, and most importantly, that our words reveal the truth of what’s happening in our hearts. Please read James 3:1-12.

1. Although these verses are filled with hard truths about our communication, there is hope for our communication. What signs of hope do you see in these verses?

2. *List the examples from nature James uses to help us understand how our tongues impact our lives and others.

3. *Which of these examples seems most challenging or applicable to your life? Why do you think this is so?

4. James speaks about communication in several places. What do the verses below teach us about our words?
 - a. James 1:19

b. James 1:26

c. James 4:1-3

d. James 4:11

e. James 4:13-16

f. James 5:12

5. What is one area of your life where you feel that the Lord is leading you away from careless words and toward redeemed words?

Spend a few moments prayerfully committing yourself to obeying the Lord as He leads you to growth in the area above.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Psalm 39:1 – “*I said, ‘I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue.’*” Ask the Lord to help you become more aware of ways you might sin with your words.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put James 1:13-15 in order.

Verse 13:

for God cannot

when he is tempted

Let no one say

be tempted with evil

“I am being tempted by God”

and he himself tempts no one.

Verse 14:

is tempted

and enticed

But each person

by his own desire.

when he is lured

Verse 15:

brings forth death

gives birth to sin

and sin

Then desire

when it has conceived

when it is fully grown

STUDY: In these verses, we learn that even though our tongues are small, the impact of the words we speak is powerful and can set the direction of our days and even our lives. James uses two illustrations to show that learning to control our tongues will help us gain self-control in other areas of life as well. Please read James 3:1-4.

1. James addresses verse one primarily to teachers of the Bible. What applications can you see for your own life?

2. This passage reminds us that we all stumble in many ways. From the verses below what are some ways that you can stumble (sin) in what you say?

a. Proverbs 10:18-19

b. Proverbs 12:18-19

c. Proverbs 18:6-8

d. Ephesians 4:29-31

3. As you honestly evaluate your words, which of these do you most struggle with? If not in these ways, which area of communication do you find most challenging?

4. *James 3:1-4 teaches that our words can direct our actions and even change the direction of our lives. What are some ways that you have seen this happen either in your life, or in those around you?

5. *In John 14:26, Jesus teaches us that the Holy Spirit will teach and remind us of what we need to know about all things. As you consider how you communicate, what are some ways that you see the Spirit guiding your words? How could your words be directed by other influences?

Close your study today by confessing any area of your communication that the Lord has shown you to be sinful. Ask Him to teach you and remind you of His truth and to help you guard your ways so that you do not sin with your mouth.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Proverbs 18:21 – “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*” Open your study today by asking the Lord to show you how your words can better reflect the redeemed life that the Lord is calling you to.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13-15.

“Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, ‘I am
_____ by _____,’ for God _____ be
_____ with _____, and he _____ tempts _____ one.
But each _____ is tempted _____ he is _____ and
_____ by his own _____. Then _____ when it has conceived gives
_____ to sin, and sin when it is fully _____ brings _____ death.”

STUDY: In our study today, James uses two examples from the world around us to teach that our tongues produce destruction and are difficult to control. As a matter of fact, “no human being can tame the tongue.” (verse 8). This is a biblical truth that we may not want to believe, but as we become more aware of our careless words, the Holy Spirit will reveal ways that our communication needs to be redeemed. These verses are a humbling reality check for us, but it’s important to remember that God never reveals a sin in our lives to hurt us, but because He loves us too much to allow us to continue in that pattern. He wants to help us gain victory over the sins that trip us up so that we can grow toward a life of joy and freedom in Christ. Please read James 3:5-8.

1. After reading these verses, how would you describe the tongue in your own words?

2. According to these verses, why are our tongues so difficult to control?

3. *James tells us that our tongues are the source of all kinds of trouble and much damage. When or in which situations do you tend to blame things outside of yourself for your communication trouble?

4. *These verses show us how destruction can come from our tongues, but scripture also offers hope for our communication. Read the verses below to learn ways that our words can be a source of life.

a. Proverbs 15:1

b. Proverbs 16:23-24

c. Ephesians 4:15-16

d. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

5. Read 1 John 1:7-10. What truths do these verses teach about how to embrace redeemed words?

Using the truths from 1 John 1:7-10 above, prayerfully commit to pursuing redeemed, life-giving patterns of communication.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Psalm 19:14 – “*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*” Ask the Lord to help you understand what your words reveal about your heart.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete James 1:13-15.

“Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, ‘I am _____ by _____,’ for God _____ be _____ with _____, and he _____ tempts _____ one. But each _____ is tempted _____ he is _____ and _____ by his own _____. Then _____ when it has _____ gives _____ to sin, and sin _____ it is fully _____ brings _____ death.”

STUDY: James continues to describe our tongues with some additional examples to help us realize that our words often reveal the hypocrisy in our hearts. He reminds us of facts we all know: that the produce is always consistent with the type of plant and that fresh water will always flow from a freshwater spring. Our challenge is to consider what this teaches us about our words. Please read James 3:9-12.

1. Briefly summarize these verses in your own words.

2. Read James 1:5-8. How is the person described in James 1 similar to the person described in our verses for today?

3. *Jesus gives us more to consider on this topic. Read Luke 6:43-45 and record below the additional information you learn from these verses.

4. *Consider the various types of speech below. If you hear these words coming out of your mouth, what might be going on in your heart?

Words you might say: *When the car in front of you doesn't go through a yellow light - "What's wrong with that guy? Does he have all day??"*

Possible Heart Attitude: (example) lack of patience, critical spirit, not recognizing that God has a different plan for this moment.

Redeemed Words: (example) Sing along to worship music, talk to your kids in the back seat, thank the Lord for a chance to redirect your thoughts to Him for a few minutes.

Words you might say: *When your sister-in-law is hosting the family gathering, but you can tell it's going to be a mess - "I know how to put together an event like this. Why don't you let me take care of the plans?"*

Possible Heart Attitude:

Redeemed Words:

Words you might say: *When your supervisor at work implements a new department-wide policy that requires more work for you - "Clearly he's never had to do this job every day."*

Possible Heart Attitude:

Redeemed Words:

Words you might say: *When your husband is indifferent or not responsive to your needs - "I can't live like this any longer. I deserve someone who loves me more than this."*

Possible Heart Attitude:

Redeemed Words:

Words you might say: *When your budget is tight and bills are piling up - "We'll never get ahead. No matter how hard I try, nothing seems to make a difference."*

Possible Heart Attitude:

Redeemed Words:

-
-
5. Consider the situations above or another area where you've been convicted regarding your careless words. Record the situation and what the Lord has shown you regarding your heart. How is He challenging you to embrace redeemed words?

Thank the Lord for what He's showing you about your heart as you evaluate the words you say.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand His Word and to show you what it means to root out careless words in your life as He guides you toward redeemed patterns of speech.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete James 1:13-15.

**L N O S W H I T, I A B T B G, F G C B T W E, A H H T N O.
B E P I T W H I L A E B H O D. T D W I H C G B T S, A S W I I F G B F D.**

What is the progression of sin?

STUDY: Today we'll study a passage that specifically refers to the trap of deception we can fall into as it relates to rooting out careless words and embracing redeemed words. Please ask the Lord to enlighten your heart to any area of your feelings, desires, or choices causing you to be deceived, and ask Him to help you let go of the deception and embrace His truth. Please use James 1:26 to allow the Spirit of the Lord to expose deception in your heart and to help you fully embrace truth from His word.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. Please list the action words from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer to others (if applicable):

3. *According to this passage, in what ways can we be deceived?

4. According to this passage, what truth helps us overcome the deception?

5. *How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. In what circumstances do you find yourself being drawn to your feelings or desires rather than the truth?

b. What truth from God's word gives you hope?

c. What obstacles do you need to overcome?

d. How will you specifically change the narrative in your mind to align with God's word when the deceptive thoughts pop up?

Please write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you overcome the specific things you talked about in your answer to #5. Please also tell Him what you know to be true about Him that gives you hope.

WEEK 5

Listening Guide

ROOTING OUT HUMAN WISDOM
AND EMBRACING GOD'S WISDOM

James 3:15-18



1. Who is wise and understanding among you? (13)

True wisdom is _____ by our _____ .

2. Human Wisdom: (14-16)

Human wisdom is rooted in
_____ and selfish ambition
and produces _____ and evil.

3. Godly Wisdom: (17-18)

Godly wisdom is rooted in
_____ and produces
_____ and peace.

2. Human Wisdom: (14-16)
(Continued)

3. Godly Wisdom: (17-18)
(Continued)

WEEK 5

Homework

ROOTING OUT HUMAN WISDOM
AND EMBRACING GOD'S WISDOM

James 3:13-18



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you a fresh desire to know Him as you study and pursue a life of wisdom.

MEMORIZE: James 1:16-17 - *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”*

Please write James 1:16-17 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: This week we will study the wisdom of God and compare it with the wisdom of this world. Our goal will be to examine our own hearts as we seek to grow in godly wisdom. Today we will begin by looking at where godly wisdom comes from. Read James 3:13-18 and then answer the study questions.

1. According to James 3:13-18:

a. What is the source of human wisdom (verse 15), and what is the source of godly wisdom (verse 17)?

b. Why is it important for a believer to recognize the difference?

c. *How could understanding the source of each kind of wisdom help to guard your heart and steps?

2. Refer to the scriptures listed below. What do these verses collectively teach you about where true wisdom comes from?

a. Proverbs 2:6:

b. James 1:5:

c. Proverbs 9:10:

d. 1 Corinthians 1:30:

3. *When you need to make a decision or respond to a difficult situation, where do you naturally look for wisdom first - your own understanding, the opinions of others, your feelings and desires, or God's Word and prayer? What does your answer reveal about where you are placing your trust?

4. Are there areas of your life where you know you should seek God's wisdom but instead rely on your own understanding, desires, or the opinions of others? What makes it difficult for you to seek God first?

5. What would it look like to intentionally seek His wisdom through prayer, His Word, and dependence on Him rather than relying on your own understanding?

Ask the Lord to help you not only recognize that true wisdom comes from Him, but to become increasingly dependent on Him as you seek wisdom for every area of your life.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to open your eyes to ways that you may be operating in worldly wisdom as you study today.

MEMORIZE: From the words shown in James 1:16-17, please write down which two phrases are missing:
“Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation.”

1. _____
2. _____

STUDY: Where am I tempted to compare myself with others? When someone else succeeds, what is my honest response? What happens in my heart when someone receives the recognition, position, or opportunity I wanted?

These questions can help us evaluate whether worldly wisdom is influencing the way we think and live. As you study today, be willing to look honestly at your own heart. Begin by reading James 3:14-16 and answer the study questions.

1. What characteristics does James identify as evidence of worldly wisdom in verses 14-16? List the attitudes, desires, and behaviors you find in the passage.

2. Think about the characteristics you listed above.

- a. How can bitter envy begin in the heart and influence the way we think about or respond to other people?

- b. How can selfish ambition cause us to seek our own interests, recognition, position, or success rather than the good of others?

- c. *Why do envy and selfish ambition often lead to strife, conflict, disorder, and other sinful behavior?

3. *Is there a relationship, situation, or area of your life where envy or selfish ambition may be producing conflict, comparison, resentment, competition, or disorder? How might your response change if you were motivated by God's wisdom rather than worldly wisdom?

4. If James 3:14-16 were used to evaluate your life right now, what evidence would there be that you are being influenced by worldly wisdom? What evidence would there be that you are resisting it?

Is there a specific attitude or behavior you need to confess to the Lord today? Write a prayer to the Lord, examining and confessing any areas of your life that are ruled by human wisdom.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to search your heart and show you how His wisdom is (or is not) shaping the way you think, speak, and respond to others.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete James 1:13-17.

"Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, 'I am _____ by _____,' for God _____ be _____ with _____, and he _____ tempts _____ one. But each _____ is tempted _____ he is _____ and _____ by his own _____. Then _____ when it has _____ gives _____ to sin, and sin _____ it is fully _____ brings _____ death. Do not be _____, my beloved brothers. Every _____ gift and every _____ gift is from above, coming down from the _____ of lights, with whom there is no _____ or shadow due to change."

STUDY: Do I truly operate in godly wisdom? How can I know that I am growing in wisdom that pleases the Lord? As you study, keep these important questions in mind. Begin by reading James 3:13 and 17 and answer the study questions.

1. From James 3:13:

a. What is the evidence that a person is growing in godly wisdom?

b. Why is a person's conduct important evidence of the wisdom they claim to have?

c. If someone evaluated your life based on James 3:13, would they see evidence that you are growing in wisdom? Why or why not?

2. *Choose two or three qualities that are especially challenging or significant to you. For each one, describe what it would look like to live it out in your everyday relationships, conversations, decisions, or conflicts.

Pure

Peaceable

Gentle

Open to reason

Full of mercy

Full of good fruits

Impartial

Sincere

3. *How does godly wisdom differ from simply being "nice" or avoiding conflict? Why is godly wisdom able to pursue peace without compromising truth?

4. Think of a situation you are currently facing in which your natural response might be influenced by worldly wisdom—perhaps through anger, defensiveness, selfish ambition, comparison, or the desire to be right.

a. Which characteristic of "wisdom from above" do you most need in that situation?

b. What would responding according to that wisdom look like?

c. How might that response change the situation or your relationship with the other person?

Ask God to make His wisdom increasingly evident in your life. Confess any ways your responses have been shaped by worldly wisdom rather than His wisdom. Ask Him to develop the character described in James 3:17 and to help you live out His wisdom in your relationships, decisions, conflicts, and everyday circumstances.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Ask the Lord to give you wisdom to honestly examine what your thoughts, words, and actions are producing in your life and relationships. Ask Him to help you become a person who sows what is pleasing to Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete James 1:13-17. Only some of the smaller words are showing.

“Let _____ one _____ when _____ is _____, ‘I am
_____ by _____,’ for God _____ be
_____ with _____, and he _____ tempts _____ one.
But each _____ is tempted _____ he is _____ and _____
by his own _____. Then _____ when it has _____ gives
_____ to sin, and sin _____ it is fully _____ brings _____
death. Do not be _____, my beloved brothers. Every _____ gift and every
_____ gift is from _____, coming _____ from the _____
of lights, with whom there is no _____ or _____ due to change.”

STUDY: The results of worldly wisdom and godly wisdom are very different. What is happening in our hearts will eventually be revealed in the way we live and in what our lives produce. The question to consider today is, “What do my heart, words, and actions demonstrate about the kind of wisdom I am living by?” Read James 3:16-18 and answer the study questions.

1. In your own words, what is the difference between the results of worldly wisdom in verse 16 and the results of godly wisdom in verses 17-18?

2. From verse 18, James talks about sowing and reaping.

a. What does it mean to “sow in peace”?

b. Who does James say sows in peace?

c. What is the connection between sowing in peace and reaping a harvest of righteousness?

d. What does this teach you about the choices you make today and the kind of life those choices can produce over time?

3. *Think about your recent words, attitudes, and actions - especially in your closest relationships.

a. What have you been sowing: peace, gentleness, mercy, and righteousness - or conflict, selfishness, defensiveness, and disorder?

b. What evidence do you see in your relationships of what you have been sowing?

c. What do the “results” of your life reveal about the wisdom that is influencing you?

4. *Where is God giving you an opportunity right now to “sow in peace”? What specific action could you take this week to pursue peace?

5. If you consistently lived according to the wisdom from above, what kind of “harvest” would you hope to see in your relationships, your character, and your influence on others? What is one area where you need to begin sowing differently?

Ask the Lord to show you what you are currently sowing through your thoughts, words, attitudes, and actions. Confess any ways you have been sowing conflict, selfishness, or disorder. Ask Him to give you His wisdom so that you can sow peace and increasingly produce a harvest of righteousness.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Thank the Lord for the truth of His word and ask Him to give you wisdom to see how you can root out human wisdom and embrace His truth.

MEMORIZE: Using the first letter of every word, please write Jeremiah 17:9 and James 1:13-17 from memory.

JEREMIAH 17:9 - T H I D A A T, A D S; W C U I?

***JAMES 1:13-15 - L N O S W H I T, I A B T B G, F G C B T W E, A H H T N O.
B E P I T W H I L A E B H O D. T D W I H C G B T S, A S W I I F G B F D.***

JAMES 1:16-17 - D N B D, M B B. E G G A E P G I F A, C D F T F O L, W W T I N V O S D T C.

What answer does James 1:16-17 give for the person who is being tempted by his own desires?

STUDY: Today we'll study a passage that specifically refers to the trap of deception we can fall into as it relates to rooting out human wisdom and embracing God's wisdom. Please ask the Lord to enlighten your heart to any area of your feelings, desires, or choices causing you to be deceived, and ask Him to help you let go of the deception and embrace His truth.

Please use 1 Corinthians 3:18-19a to allow the Spirit of the Lord to expose deception in your heart and to help you fully embrace truth from His word. Read 1 Corinthians 3:18.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. Please list the action words from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer to others (if applicable):

3. *According to this passage, in what ways can we be deceived?

4. According to this passage, what truth helps us overcome deception?

5. *How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. In what circumstances do you find yourself being drawn to your feelings or desires rather than the truth?

b. What truth from God's word gives you hope?

c. What obstacles do you need to overcome?

d. How will you specifically change the narrative in your mind to align with God's word when the deceptive thoughts pop up?

Please write a prayer to the Lord asking Him to help you overcome the specific things you talked about in your answer to #5. Please also tell Him what you know to be true about Him that gives you hope.

WEEK 6

Listening Guide

ROOTING OUT SELF AND EMBRACING
US IN HUMBLE SUBMISSION

James 4:1-10



Introduction

1. Don't be _____. Conflicts come from _____ anger, not outer circumstances. (1-4)

2. Don't be _____. God opposes the _____ but gives grace to the humble. (5-7)

3. _____ us starts with embracing the Lord in _____ repentance. (8-10)

Challenges



CHALLENGE - READING PLAN

Summit Point Church provides a Monday through Friday reading plan you can study daily. The Monday through Thursday passages refer to the passage that was preached the prior Sunday. Friday passages are what will be preached the following Sunday. If you would like to read a daily devotional email on the passages, you can sign up to receive the email, Climbing Up to the Heart of God.

Go to <https://summitpoint.org/climbing-up-to-the-heart-of-god> to subscribe.

A great way to study the passage is to follow the OPA method:

Before you do OPA, always begin and end with prayer. We NEED the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us if we're going to learn and be changed.

- O - OBSERVE:** What are the details in the passage? Who is involved? What do you see about the heart of God? Why do we need this message?
- P - PRINCIPLE:** What principles, fundamental truths, or meaning can you draw from this passage?
- A - APPLY:** How can you apply what you see in this passage to specific circumstances, attitudes, or desires in your life? What do you need to confess? What can you praise God for?

CHALLENGE:

Please use the Dive Deeper worksheet to get a better understanding of rooting out deceit and embracing truth for the following passages:

DIVE DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

Please take a few minutes to focus on God's character and tell Him what you see in Him. Ask Him to help you to believe the truth of who He is. (He is faithful, holy, Redeemer, God of encouragement, God of peace, slow to anger, merciful, gracious, trustworthy...)

Passage: _____

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words:

2. List the verbs (actions words) from the passage:

a. Words that refer to God:

b. Words that refer to you:

c. Words that refer someone else:

3. What do you learn about God from this passage?

4. How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?

a. What obstacles keep you from believing these things about the Lord?

b. What sin do you need to confess?

i. What have you not believed about Him?

ii. What attitudes have not aligned with Him?

iii. What actions go against His character?

c. What do you need to surrender to the Lord?

5. Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learn from this passage and how you will respond.

SCRIPTURES:

- Psalm 34:10-12
- Galatians 6:3
- Ephesians 4:11-14
- Ephesians 5:5-6
- 1 Peter 2:1-3
- 1 Peter 2:21-23
- 1 Peter 3:10-12
- Galatians 6:7-8
- 1 John 3:7-8

CHALLENGE:

Please use the following scriptures to explain:

1. God's goal for our lives.

2. How your goals sometimes conflict with His goals.

3. What step you will take to cooperate with His goals for you.

SCRIPTURES:

- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- 1 Peter 2:9
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- Hebrews 12:14
- Ephesians 1:4
- Romans 12:1
- Hebrews 12:10
- Colossians 1:21-23

CHALLENGE:

Please use the White Hot worksheet to do a deeper study of the passages we studied in Truth and Lies:

WHITE HOT BIBLE STUDY

Study one passage _____

1. Ask the Lord for insight before you start and dedicate this time to Him.
2. Rephrase each verse. (You can use thesaurus.com to help.)
 - a. The rephrase might be longer than the actual verse. Don't miss any aspect of it.

3. Write down all the action verbs.
 - a. Which ones are about God?

- b. Which ones apply to you?

4. Write down all the words that repeat 3 X's or more.

5. Write down any purpose statements (i.e. in order that, so that, because, for) and the phrases they connect.

6. Do a deeper study on verses that catch your attention. Go to Biblehub.com for help.

7. Summarize the passage.

SCRIPTURES:

- James 1:1-8
- James 1:9-18
- James 1:19-25
- James 3:1-12
- James 3:13-17
- James 4:1-10

8. Write down what you learn about the character of God. His:

- a. Love _____
- b. Power _____
- c. Authority _____
- d. Wisdom _____
- e. Grace _____
- f. Mercy _____
- g. Goodness _____

9. Write down how you will specifically apply this passage to your circumstances.

a. What sin do you need to confess?

i. What have you not believed about Him?

ii. What attitudes have not aligned with Him?

iii. What actions go against His character?

b. What can you thank Him for?

c. What do you need to surrender?

d. In what ways do you need to love your neighbor more like Christ?

i. In attitude?

ii. In action?

10. Pray: Tell the Lord what you learned, what you're thankful for, how you're going to apply this passage to your life.