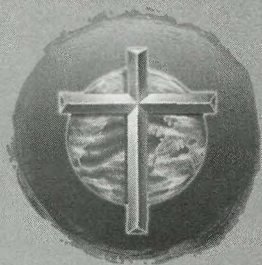


Study Guide





LifeLight Expands

LifeLight

Available NOW!

LifeLight Original Studies

(available until they are updated to new format; see schedule below)

Hebrews	Revelation	Ephesians 1 & 2	2 Corinthians	Daniel
Acts, Pt. 1	Isaiah, Pt. 1	Minor Prophets	Luke, Pt. 1	Selected Psalms
Acts, Pt. 2	Isaiah, Pt. 2	1 Corinthians	Luke, Pt. 2	Life of David

LifeLight New Format

(* all-new studies)

1 John	* Galatians/Phili/Col	Romans, Pt. 2	Exodus, Pt. 1
* The Bible: An Overview	Genesis, Pt. 1	John, Pt. 1	Exodus, Pt. 2
Matthew, Pt. 1	Genesis, Pt. 2	John, Pt. 2	* James/Jude
Matthew, Pt. 2	Romans, Pt. 1	* 1 Peter/2 Peter	

LifeLight Foundations

Prophecy

LifeLight Release Schedule

(* all-new LifeLight ** all-new LifeLight Foundations)

**LifeLight Foundations—Bible Feasts	10/03	LifeLight—Minor Prophets	1/09
LifeLight—Acts 1	1/04	LifeLight—Daniel	4/09
LifeLight—Acts 2	4/04	* LifeLight—Mark	7/09
* LifeLight—Proverbs	7/04	**LifeLight Foundations—Ministry	10/09
**LifeLight Foundations—Miracles	10/04	LifeLight—Life of David	1/10
LifeLight—Hebrews	1/05	LifeLight—Selected Psalms	4/10
LifeLight—Revelation	4/05	* LifeLight—Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs	7/10
* LifeLight—Timothy/Titus/Philemon	7/05	**LifeLight Foundations—Creation/ New Creation	10/10
**LifeLight Foundations—Law & Gospel	10/05		
LifeLight—Isaiah	1/06	<u>Other Future Studies:</u>	
LifeLight—Ephesians/Thessalonians	4/06	1st, 2nd & 3rd John	
* LifeLight—Joshua	7/06	Job	
**LifeLight Foundations—Cleansing Water	10/06	Wilderness Wanderings (Lev., Num. & Deut.)	
LifeLight—1 Corinthians	1/07	Ezra, Nehemiah	
LifeLight—2 Corinthians	4/07		
* LifeLight—Judges	7/07	<u>These helpful resources are now available:</u>	
**LifeLight Foundations— Between the Testaments	10/07	Intro Kit	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 1	1/08	LifeLight for Little Ones	
LifeLight—Luke, Pt. 2	4/08	Self-stick notes	
* LifeLight—Ruth/Esther	7/08	Cornerstones—leadership training videos	
**LifeLight Foundations—Triune God	10/08		

Dealing with Trials and Temptations

Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.
Use *Enrichment Magazine* pages 2–7.

**James 1:1–18; Matthew 13:53–58;
12:46–49; 14:22–34**

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week’s assembly.

Hymn

Entrust your days and burdens
To God’s most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
He that in clouds and tempest
Finds breakthrough for the sun
Will find right pathways for you
Till trav’ling days are done.

Leave all to God’s direction;
His wisdom rules for you
In ways to rouse your wonder
At all His love can do.
When His plans are maturing,
Then wonder-working pow’rs
Will banish from your spirit
What gave you troubled hours.

Paul Gerhardt; tr. F. Samuel Janzow
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Prayer

Lord, You know how confused we become when the hard things of life come our way and how quickly we give in when sin beckons. Help us to see these things for what they really are and to count on You to keep us strong. In Your own great name we pray. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

**Day 1 • Read James 1:1; Matthew
13:53–58; 12:46–49**

1. The author of the epistle of James identifies himself simply as “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 1). Several important followers of Jesus bore that name—the son of Zebedee

(Matthew 4:21); James the Less, son of Alphaeus (Matthew 10:3); and the one referred to in the passages listed above, who appears to be the author of this letter.

a. What does Matthew 13:53–58 tell us about his *human* relationship to Jesus?

b. What does James 1:1 tell us about his *spiritual* relationship to Jesus?

2. a. What was James’s initial reaction to Jesus’ ministry (John 7:5)?

b. How did Jesus feel about this (Matthew 12:46–49)?

c. Why do you suppose James did not identify himself as a human relative of Jesus in this letter?

3. According to 1 Corinthians 15:3–8 what happened to change James's attitude toward Jesus?

b. How does the testing of trouble and hardship produce it (v. 3)?

4. a. What position did James hold in the Jerusalem congregation (Acts 15:6–21)?

7. a. What or who is the "wisdom" referred to in verses 5–8?

b. Why might this give his letter authority among the Christians outside of Jerusalem?

b. How may it help us to deal with our trials?
1 Corinthians 1:21–25

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Day 2 • Read James 1:2–8, 12

5. In James 1:2 the author refers to various kinds of trials that test the faith of his readers. If his readers are the same people mentioned in Acts 8:1–3 and 11:19 (and they probably are), what were the trials and troubles that they were experiencing? See Acts 22:4 and 19 and 26:10 for some specifics.

Colossians 2:2–3

Hebrews 2:10–17

6. a. What is perseverance (v. 3)?

8. We are told to rejoice in our trials and persecutions because they produce perseverance (vv. 3–4) and can lead to the crown of life (v. 12). Elsewhere in Scripture we are given other reasons for such rejoicing. What are they?

Acts 5:41

Listening and Responding

Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.
Use *Enrichment Magazine* pages 14–18.

James 1:19–2:13; John 15:5–17;
Colossians 3:1–16; Romans 6:1–14;
Luke 6:20–26; Matthew 25:31–46

Resources for Worship

Use the resources for daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and Spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You
And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You,
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at Your Word,
But to me, who know my burden,
Show me now Your Word of pardon!

Precious Jesus, I entreat You,
Let Your words in me take root;
Let this gift of heav'n enrich me
So that I bring gen'rous fruit:
Never take them from my heart
Till I see You as You are,
When in heav'nly bliss and glory
I will meet You and adore You!

Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt; tr. George T. Rygh

Prayer

Heavenly Father, how grateful we are for Your Word, for revealing Your heart to us in that Word, for reaching out to us with love and hope and guidance. Forgive us for being such poor listeners. Give us open ears and minds as we study Your Word, and help us always to respond with believing hearts and obedient lives. We dare to ask this in the name and for the sake of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

Digging Deep My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read James 1:19–21; John 15:5–17

1. a. What does James mean when he urges us to “be quick to listen, slow to speak” in verse 19? See verse 26.

b. What is the opposite of this?

c. Why is it so important for us to listen? See John 15:5–17.

2. a. What are we supposed to listen to?

b. What effect will it have upon us? See verses 18, 21, 25; 2:12; and John 8:31.

c. What kind of freedom is referred to in these passages?

6. When we let evil attitudes have their way, who actually is in control of us? See Romans 6:12 and Colossians 3:5.

d. From what and for what are we set free?

7. How will these attitudes and the actions that flow from them affect our ability to listen to God?

3. Where is that Word located? See verse 21; John 5:39.

8. According to Romans 6:1–14 and Colossians 3:1–16 what resources do we have for dealing with evil attitudes and inclinations?

4. What, or who, is the specific content of that Word? See 1:18; John 1:14; Romans 10:17.

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Day 2 • Read James 1:19–22; Colossians 3:1–16; Romans 6:1–14

5. God's Word is calculated to produce a response in us. If we listen to it and take it to heart, we will be able to make some important changes. God the Holy Spirit makes this possible. How do angry, immoral, and arrogant attitudes (vv. 20–22) interfere with the response that God intends and enables?

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Day 3 • Read James 1:23–27; 2:10–11

9. As we listen to God's Word and accept it by faith, it is planted in our hearts (v. 21). It is there for us, not only when we are in the process of listening or reading, but also when we do other things. How can we get access to and draw benefit from that implanted Word?

10. In order to help us break free from the controlling power of sin, God's Word first exposes our sins and makes us aware of them. This part of God's Word is called "the Law."

a. How does the reference to the mirror illustrate this (vv. 23–24)?