

# *Personal Discovery Bible Study: James*

## **Purpose:**

The Personal Discovery Bible Study (DBS) is a method to learn and apply God's word to our lives based on a simple process of study, obey, and share.

## **Schedule**

Day 1	James 1-5 (Read entire book)
Day 2	James 1:2-4, Rejoicing in Trials
Day 3	James 1:19-21, Being slow to anger but quick to listen
Day 4	James 3:2-10, Controlling your tongue
Day 5	James 4:1-10, Submit to God, resisting lust, pride, and the devil
Day 6	James 5:13-18, The powerful prayer of a righteous person

## **Instructions**

On day 1, read the entire book of James (chapters 1-5). Then beginning on day 2 you will start your personal DBS of the selected passages. Read the passage and take a piece of paper or your journal and turn it on its side (landscape). Then divide the paper into three columns. Label the first 'Scripture.' Label the second 'My Words' and the third 'I Will.'

### **1. Study**

- 1) Read.** Read the selected passage in entirety (out loud if possible).
- 2) Scripture.** In the 'Scripture' column, write the passage: word-for-word. This takes time but is very important and transformational. When you copy a passage word-for-word you actually read it through several times (about five to seven). By copying the verses, it also provides a way of meditation in which you are able to focus and reflect on the passage. When you write out a passage, it allows you to think about every word.
- 3) My Words.** When you finish copying the passage, use the second column to write the passage in your own words. Write it out like you're telling a friend about it over a cup of coffee (or tea!). Don't move on until you can write the passage in your own words. We don't really understand a passage until we can communicate it to someone else in our own words. And you can't obey Scripture unless you understand it. It's that simple.

### **2. Obey**

In the third column, **I Will**, we transition from studying God's Word to obeying God's Word. Take time to reflect on each part of the passage. Then pause and ask God, "Father how do you want me to obey this passage?" Ask God to reveal things you need to add to your life, take away from your life, or change in your life to obey this passage. Write down

what Jesus is teaching you to obey. Be very specific. What can you do in the next 24 hours to obey this passage? Every time we open God's Word, He invites us to know Him through an interactive relationship. As disciples of Jesus, we are to abide in Him and in His word. This third column is your response to God's invitation to follow and obey Him.

### **3. Share**

When you finish your study, you have two responsibilities:

- 1) Meet with other followers of Christ and discuss what you learned. Tell them your 'I Will' statements. They can hold you accountable and figure out ways to help you obey God's Word.
- 2) Look for opportunities to share what God spoke to you with others. Work the phrase, "God taught me something today" or something similar, into conversations and wait for a response. This creates discussion opportunities. If people care, they ask for more information. If it isn't the right time for them, they will ignore you. Don't continue to share. Please share your faith with those who are ready and interested, not those who are not ready.

### **Summery**

1. Read the selected passage.
2. Write the passage word-for-word in column 1.
3. Write the passage in your own words in column 2.
4. List the actions the Holy Spirit is leading you to take to obey this passage in column 3.
5. Share what you learned with other believers for accountability.
6. Create discussion opportunities with not-yet-believers, people far from God, or other followers of Jesus. Share with people who are interested.

**Scripture**

**My Words**

**I Will**