

WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #45: JAMES CHAPTER 4-5; 1 PETER

CHAPTER 1-3

Chapter 4

1. James warns us about our worldly passions: *"Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (vs.4). How do you make a distinction between the things of God and the things of the world? What things of this world challenge your walk with God?
2. *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you"* (vs.7-8). In what regard must you repeatedly resist evil? When have you tried to resist evil without also drawing near to God?
3. *"Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin"* (vs.17). Think about the sins of omission in your life—not doing what you know to do. What are they? In what ways is God calling you to act in obedience?

Chapter 5

1. In vs. 1-5, James gives warning to those who have "laid up treasure" and gotten rich through dishonest dealings. What are examples of how you are becoming less concerned about wealth and riches and more concerned about the things of God?
2. We are called to be steadfast and patient until we are re-united with our Lord (vs.8). Who has modeled these things for you?
3. James closes with a reminder of the power of faithful prayer (vs.17-18). How have you experienced this power? How have you grown in your confidence towards God through prayer?

I Peter—This letter was written by Peter, the leader and spokesman of Jesus' Twelve Disciples. He and his brother, Andrew, who brought Peter to Christ, were from a family of fishermen. Peter wrote during a time when Christians were intensely persecuted. He exhorts believers to maintain a holy life in Christ even in the face of suffering. Believers can look forward to the return of their "Chief Shepherd," Jesus Christ (5:4).

Chapter 1

1. Through Christ's Resurrection, God offers us an inheritance that is "imperishable, undefiled and unfading—kept in heaven for you" (vs.3-4). In what ways does your lifestyle demonstrate an appreciation for all Christ has done for us? In what ways do you take it for granted?
2. As followers of Christ we are called to be Holy in all of our ways (vs.15-16). In what ways are you successful in holy living? In what ways do you struggle?

3. *"All men are like grass... the grass withers and the flower falls, but the Word of the Lord remains forever"* (vs.24-25). When do you recognize how short your life is? When have you appreciated how timeless God's promises are?

Chapter 2

1. We are told to put away all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander (vs.1). With which of these do you struggle? Which will you intentionally curb today?
2. Vs.15 says that *"by doing good we will put to silence the ignorance of foolish people."* How have you experienced this truth? When have you witnessed the undeniable reflection of Christ in someone's lifestyle?
3. We are called to endure unjust suffering (vs.19-21). How have you done so? When do you complain or get even instead?

Chapter 3

1. Vs.9 teaches us not to retaliate when we are injured or insulted. What is an example of how you have practiced this? When have you failed to do so?
2. As believers, we are called to "always be prepared" to share with others about the hope we have in Christ (v.15). When have you been able to share with someone else the things God has done for you?

WEEK #46: 1 PETER CHAPTER 4-5; 2 PETER

CHAPTER 1-3

Chapter 4

1. Vs.7 calls us to maintain a clear mind so we can pray effectively. When has a troubled mind made it difficult to pray? What time of day might you set aside for clear-minded praying?
2. We're called to use our gifts to serve others (vs.10). In what ways do you do so? How would God have you use your gifts today?
3. Vs.12-19 alerts us to anticipate suffering as we live for Christ, and gives us encouragement as we deal with it. When have you experienced some of the things mentioned in this passage? In what ways do you feel you've suffered faithfully?

Chapter 5

1. Church leaders are to follow Christ's example as they serve (vs.1-4). Who has demonstrated this example for you? How do you demonstrate this example for others?
2. We are warned to be watchful as we walk with Christ: *"Our adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour"* (vs. 8). This powerful imagery reminds us that the temptations of evil are everywhere, waiting to corrupt our lives and distance us from God. In what ways are you watchful? What temptations are you resisting today?

II Peter—Peter's second letter was written from Rome near the time of his martyrdom. Knowing his death was near, he focuses on heresy and apathy. In addition to intense persecution, some were teaching false doctrine and were damaging the church. Peter exposes the motives of these false teachers and reaffirms basic Christian truths—the authority of Scripture, the importance of faith,

NT365

The New Testament in a Year

Read the entire
New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day, Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes & reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for Small Group discussion.*

Guide #12

Weeks 45-48

**James Chapter 4
to Revelation Chapter 2**



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3002 W. Bloomington Rd., Champaign, IL, 61822, NewHorizonChurch.org

the certainty of the Second Coming of Christ, etc. He encourages believers to grow in their knowledge of Christ, and to live godly lives in anticipation of Christ's return.

Chapter 1

1. We are taught to make every effort to supplement our faith with the virtues listed in vs.5-7. In what ways have you grown in these areas? With which do you continue to struggle?
2. Peter teaches us that *"no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation... but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit"* (vs.20-21). What is Peter teaching about the authority of Scripture? Are you able to rely on the claims of Scripture?

Chapter 2

1. Vs.1-3 warn us of false teachers. How do you guard yourself against false teachings? How can you assure yourself what we believe is true?
2. Vs.19 teaches that we are "slaves" to anything that masters us. When have you experienced this kind of slavery? Does anything master your life today?

Chapter 3

1. Peter encourages our patience with God, noting *"that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day"* (vs. 8). When have you had to wait on God's timing? When have you been impatient with God?
2. Peter teaches that Christ's return will come swiftly and unannounced (vs.10-12). How would you live differently if you were to take this challenge at face value?

WEEK #47: 1 JOHN CHAPTER 1-5

I John—This book was written by John, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, who also wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. John writes to a new generation of non-Jewish believers and presents God as Light, Love and Life. To combat false teachers, John reminds the church that Jesus Christ is the basis of their faith. Genuine Christianity is love, obedience to Christ and sound doctrine.

Chapter 1

1. In vs.1, John claims to have seen, heard and touched Christ, the "Word of Life." How does it strike you to read the testimony of an eye-witness to the life and ministry of Jesus?
2. *"God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all"* (vs.5). In what ways have you experienced God to be "Light?" What "darkness" has Christ illuminated in your life?
3. John teaches, *"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"* (vs.9). Are you in the practice of confessing your sin to God and receiving His forgiveness? In what ways do you sense His forgiveness?

Chapter 2

1. We should strive to be sinless like Christ, but if we do sin, Jesus is our advocate with God (vs. 1). In what areas of your life have you experienced Christ's victory over your sin? In what areas do you continue to struggle?

2. Vs.15-17 caution us regarding our affections for the temporary things of this world. In what ways has God become a greater focus in your life? What pursuits in this life distract you from your focus on God?

Chapter 3

1. John teaches, *"The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him"* (vs.1). Those who are far from God may not understand or appreciate the values and lifestyle of Christ-followers. In what ways have you experienced this?
2. In vs. 18 we are challenged, *"let us not love in word or talk, but in deed and in truth."* What's the difference? How have you experienced both? When have you been inconsistent in loving people both in word and in deed?

Chapter 4

1. *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear"* (v.18). In what ways does your love of God and His love for you free you from fears?
2. *"If anyone says, 'I love God' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen"* (vs. 20). Whom do you struggle to love? Whom is God calling you to love? Is anger or resentment toward another person separating you from God?

Chapter 5

1. *"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith"* (vs.4). What are victories that Christ has won in your life? In what ways have you overcome with God's help?
2. Those of us who trust Christ can have confidence that when we ask according to God's will, He hears us (vs.13-14). Do you have a sense that God hears and responds to your prayers? What are examples of answered prayers?

WEEK #48: 2 JOHN; 3 JOHN; JUDE; REVELATION CHAPTERS 1-2

II John—The Apostle John offers his churches encouragement. His tender language addresses churches as "The Chosen Lady" and "Chosen Sisters." As believers, we make up the church, the "Bride of Christ," which John will address further as he pens the Book of Revelation.

1. John speaks of "walking in the truth" as we follow God (vs.4). In what ways are you walking in obedience to God? What are areas of disobedience in your life?
2. Vs.9 reads, *"everyone who does not follow the teachings of Christ does not have God."* Do you sense that trusting and obeying Christ has connected you with God? Have you come to trust that Christ is our connection with God?

III John—Here we get a sense of the missionary movement in the early church as teachers and evangelists move from town to town. John encourages churches to participate in these missionary efforts by loving and caring for these Christian workers.

1. We are encouraged to support missionaries that we may be fellow workers for the truth of Christ (vs.8). How do you support missionary efforts around the world? How might God be calling you to greater involvement in Christ's mission?

2. *"...do not imitate evil but imitate what is good"* (vs.11). Who sets a great example for you to imitate? In what ways do you set a good example for others?

Jude—Jude, half-brother of Jesus, was the brother of James. With many quotes from the Old Testament, Jude calls us to remember the teachings of Christ and to contend earnestly for the faith. Remain strong and fight for God's truth.

1. Jude calls us to have mercy on those who doubt (vs.22). How do you deal with others who doubt the teachings of Christ? How do you deal with your own doubts and failings?
2. Jude ends with this encouragement: *"To Him Who is able to keep you from falling..."* (vs.24). It is God Who reaches out to us, and it is God Who holds on to us. When has God been faithful to hold on to you when you were unable to hold on to Him?

Revelation—While the Apostle John was exiled for his faith on the isle of Patmos, God gave him a revelation of Jesus Christ and His glory in Heaven. This prophetic message of hope assures us of God's power, sovereignty, and victory over evil, despite human or demonic opposition. In the end, God and His people triumph through Christ!

Chapter 1

1. Although difficult to comprehend, we are blessed for having read the Book of Revelation (vs.3). What are your expectations and apprehensions as we begin?
2. John reminds us in this last book of the New Testament that God is *"the beginning and the end, the Almighty, Who is and was and is to come"* (vs.8). In what ways has God become more real to you through this year of reading His Word?

Chapter 2

1. In vs.4, Jesus tells readers "you have forsaken your first love." In what ways are you less passionate about Christ? What will you do to increase your love for Him?
2. In vs.10, Jesus acknowledges suffering because of our faith. How have you suffered for your faith? How has your suffering developed your faith and character?
3. Jesus repeatedly says, *"He who has an ear, let him hear"* (vs.7, etc.). In what ways have you grown in your ability to hear, perceive and obey Christ's words?