

**BOY,
HAVE I GOT
PROBLEMS!**

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HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

EUGENE, OREGON

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Illustrations by Steve Bjorkman

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BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!

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Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

ISBN 0-7369-0148-5

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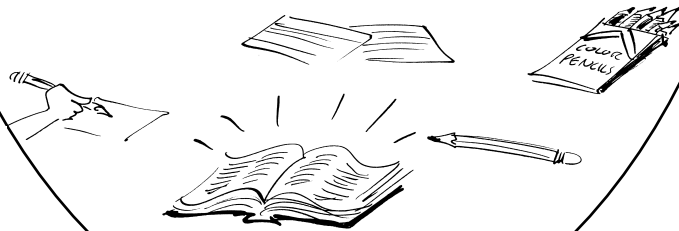
Printed in the United States of America.

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*To Chase and Brent Arndt, my precious sons.
Thank you for being patient and giving so unselfishly,
for all your help trying out our ideas, and
especially for those words of encouragement!
This one is for you. Third John 1:4.
I love you,
Mommy*

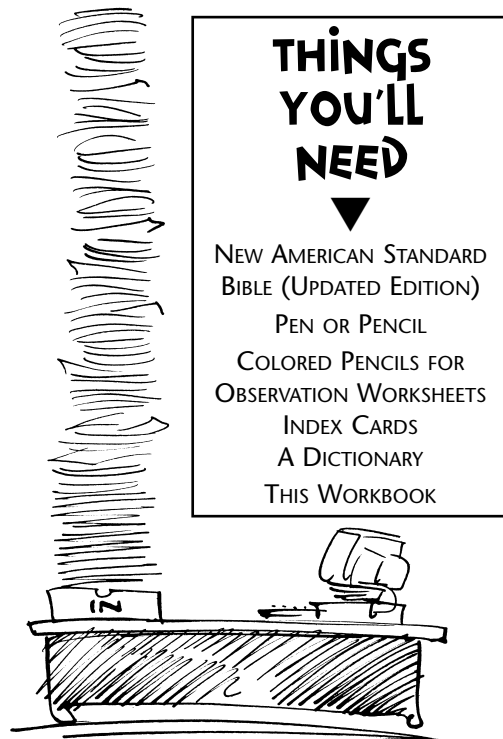
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BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!

Help! Ellie, our advice columnist, just got the flu. We have tons of mail and no one to answer it. Can you help us? I know filling Ellie's shoes is a big job (she wears a size 11), but I'm sure you can do it because the answers to all these kids' problems can be found in God's Word and with the help of His Holy Spirit. In addition, you have this book. It's called an inductive Bible study. That word *inductive* means that this Bible study is set up for you to discover *for yourself* what the book of James means. Instead of someone else telling you what the book is about, you'll look at the Bible passages and figure it out for yourself. And that's just what our readers need—someone to answer their questions straight from God's Word. So if you're ready, let's open the first letter.



1



JAMES 1:1-11

Okay, we're ready for our first letter. This one is from a guy named Confused. Let's see what he has to say.

Dear Ellie,

I wanted to try out for the basketball team next week, but yesterday at practice I fell and broke my leg. Now there is no way I can make the team. I am so disappointed. I have been praying for this chance for a year. Why would God let this happen to me? I try to obey His word.

Signed,

Confused



Wow! Confused seems to need your help. What an awful thing to break your leg during basketball practice after all that hard work! No wonder he is confused and wondering why God would let this happen to him.

We need to get an answer to him right away—God’s answer, not ours. So let’s turn to James and begin. James is a letter that God had written and included in His book, the Bible, to help people with their problems.

But before we begin, first things first. We need to pray. Bible study should always begin with prayer. We need God’s help not only to understand His Word, but also to help other people answer their questions in a way that’s pleasing to God. Take a moment to pray, and then we’re ready to take our first look at James.



OH, THOSE TRIALS

Turn to James 1 on page 129. The pages with the Bible text on them are called Observation Worksheets. We will use them to do our Bible study.

Today, when we read a letter we don’t usually know who

the writer is until we see the signature at the end. In Bible times, the writer of the letter identified himself immediately. Instead of waiting till the end, the letter was signed at the beginning!

Watch! Read James 1, verse 1, and see who wrote this letter and what he tells us about himself.

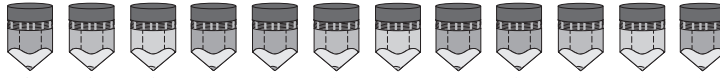
James 1:1 WHO wrote this book?

HOW does he describe himself?

He is a _____ of God.

WHAT does it mean to be a bond-servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ?





FROM SLAVE TO BOND-SERVANT

In Old Testament times, a slave that had served his time under Jewish law would be set free. That slave could go to his master and say, "I know I have served my time and that you have to release me according to the law, but living in your house is better than living on my own. I would rather be your slave than be set free."

The master would take the slave and place the slave's earlobe against the doorpost and drive an awl through it. An awl was a thick metal spike with a sharp-pointed end. When the master pulled out the awl, there was a hole that everyone could see. It was too big for an earring! When everyone saw this hole they would know that this slave had an awesome master because this slave had chosen to stay with his master and serve him rather than being set free! This made the slave a bond-servant for the rest of his life.

To be a bond-servant means to be a love slave for life.

A bond-servant is a person who has chosen to be a slave after he has been given his freedom.

James is saying that he is God's bond-servant.

He has totally surrendered his life to serve God and Jesus.

Now, let's see. To WHOM is James writing?

James 1:1 _____

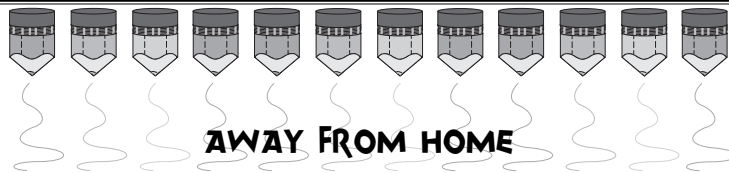
WHERE are the twelve tribes?

James 1:1 _____

The WHERE question you just answered gives us a chance to talk about something important called *context*. When you study the Bible, it's very important to understand the context of a passage. Context is a setting in which something is told or found. For example, where would you find a bed in your house? In the kitchen? No, of course not! You would find a bed in a bedroom. A bedroom is the context for a bed. When you look at context in the Bible, you look at the verses surrounding the passage you're studying. You also think about where the passage fits in the big picture of the whole Bible. Context includes:

- the place where something happens
- the time an event occurs (you sleep in a bed at night and cook meals in the kitchen during the day)
- the customs of the group of people involved
- the time in history an event occurred

Sometimes you can discover all these things from just the verses you're studying. Sometimes you have to study other passages of Scripture. It's always important to be on the lookout for context because it helps you discover what the Bible is saying.



AWAY FROM HOME

The twelve tribes are the Jews.

Being dispersed abroad means the Jews who believed in Jesus were living in foreign countries. The Jews were living someplace other than Israel—the land that God had given them for their permanent home!

These Jews had been scattered to other countries because of the difficult times for people who believed in Jesus.

James 1:2 WHAT does James call them?

Brethren means “brothers.” Now we know that all the Jews could not be James’ blood brothers! They didn’t all have the same parents. James is calling these Jews his brothers because they are his brothers in Christ. Their father is God because they have believed that Jesus is the Son of God.

James’ Christian brothers had problems, and he wanted to help them. When we don’t solve problems the right way, we can sin. And that makes God very sad!

Now that we have discovered who James is and to whom he’s writing, let’s read his letter and see what he has to say about problems (or trials as James calls them).

Read James 1:2-4.

Does verse 2 say *if* we encounter trials or *when* we encounter trials?

Did you know the Bible was written in Greek? That’s because Greek was the language that was used in much of the world at the time the New Testament was written. Looking at Greek words and their meanings can help us understand what the writer intends when he uses certain words. Let’s look at the word *trials* in James 1:2. The Greek word for *trials* is *peirasmos*, which means to put to the test. A trial is a hard time that God allows to happen to us for our good. If one of your friends is mean to you, that would be a trial. God could use that trial to help you remember to be kind to others.

Why don’t you try saying this Greek word? It’s pronounced pi-ras-mos. Practice saying it to your friends. The next time you go through a trial, you can say *peirasmos!* Then you can share with your friends what the Bible says about trials. Isn’t that a neat way to share God’s Word?

In verse 2, James tells us to do WHAT when we encounter trials?

Consider it _____.

WHAT are some of the trials—the hard or difficult situations—you and your friends run into?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

And when they happen, what does God's Word say you are to do?

Consider it all ___ ___ ___! (Spell it out.)

Isn't that amazing? Not only should we expect problems, James tells us, but we should be joyful about them. He also says we will have many trials.

Read James 1:3-4. WHY do Christians have trials?

Knowing that the _____ of your _____

produces _____. And let _____

have its _____ result, so that you may be

_____ and _____, lacking in nothing.

God allows us to have problems to test our faith—to help us become more like Jesus, perfect and complete.

Right off the bat we see that James tells Confused what he needs to know about problems. Now that you've studied God's Word, let's answer Confused's letter.

Dear Confused,

Ellie is out sick with the flu. My name is _____, and I'm helping answer Ellie's letters while she is sick. I am so sorry to hear that you broke your leg right before basketball tryouts. I know that God's Word holds all the answers to life's problems. I've been studying the book of James, a letter to Jewish Christians about problems.

Let me share with you what I learned today. In James 1:2, James tells us to consider it all _____ when we encounter various _____. That means that as Christians we can expect to have unplanned _____.

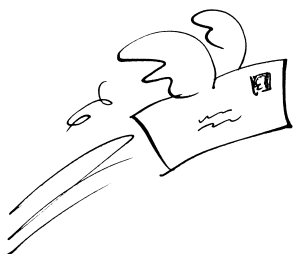
Even though trials are painful, like not being able to make the basketball team, they are for our good. God has a purpose for us during a trial. Verse 3 tells us that trials _____ our _____, and produce _____. Verse 4 says, "Let endurance have its _____ result, so that you may be _____ and _____, lacking in _____."

This verse shows us how much God loves and cares about us. He wants us to grow up to be mature and complete. God uses trials in our life to test our faith, to see if we are trusting in Him. I am going to memorize this verse so I'll be ready the next time problems pop up. Why don't you memorize it, too?

I understand your disappointment that you didn't get to try out for the basketball team. I would be disappointed, too! But remember, keep trusting in God.

Signed, _____

P.S. We'll write again once we have done some more studying in James.



Here's the verse that you told Confused about. It's a great verse to memorize, isn't it? After all, everybody has trials!

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Now write James 1:2-4 on an index card and carry it with you. Read it out loud three times a day—morning, lunchtime, and evening—and by the end of the week you'll have it memorized. Why don't you try saying it to a friend? Ask your friend to check you to see if you are saying the verse right. When you ask your friend to help you, your friend will get to hear this verse, too. You'll be sharing God's Word with your friend! Once you have God's Word hidden in your heart, you'll be ready to face anything. You won't be as likely to let things disappoint you or take away your hope.



LET'S UNLOCK THE DOOR. . .


We have a stack of mail on our desk. Boy, have people ever got problems! But before we open any more mail, we need to find some more answers to help Confused. Let's look at the letter James wrote to the Jewish believers to see what we can learn about God and why God would let this happen to Confused. Remember to pray before you begin!


Turn to James 1 on page 129. Today we are going to look at key words. Key words are words that pop up again and again. They are important in helping us understand the meaning of the Bible passage. Key words help us to unlock the door and discover what James is telling us in his letter.

- Key words are words that are repeated.
- Key words are important.
- Key words are used by the writer for a reason.

Every time you find a key word, you need to mark it by coloring it its own color or by using a symbol.

Here are some helpful ways to mark the following key words (or you can make up your own symbols). Just remember to keep them simple.

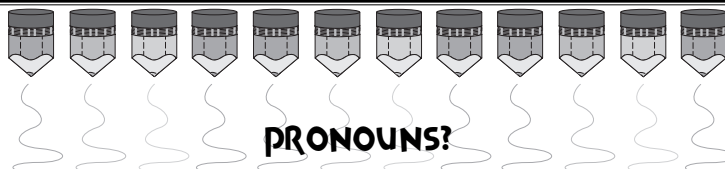
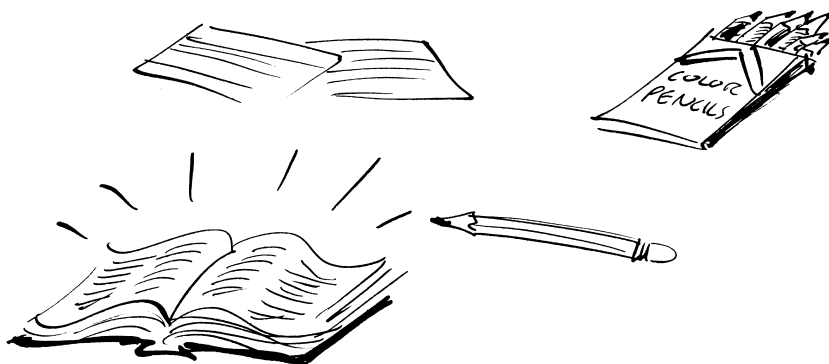
 God (also, Lord) (purple triangle, colored yellow)

 faith (blue book, colored green)

~~trials~~ (red fire)

wisdom (colored yellow, underlined orange)

Also remember to mark any other words that mean the same thing as the key word, such as pronouns.



Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns:

Brent went to the park. *He* played soccer.

The word *he* is a pronoun because it takes the place of Brent's name in the sentence.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking key words:

I	you	he	she
me	yours	him	her
mine		his	hers
we	it		
our	its		
they	them		

Hang in there—you can do it!

Great job! Tomorrow we will begin to see what we have discovered by marking these key words.

P.S. Don't forget to practice your memory verse!



WHO IS GOD?

How should we begin?

That's right—we should pray first!

Now turn to page 129 and look at James 1:1-11. You'll see that you marked the word *God* or *Lord* in these verses. After you mark a key word, it's good to make a list of what you've learned. Today we are going to make a list of the three things you discover about God from James 1:1-11.

We've done the first one for you.

1. James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

2. James 1:5 _____

3. James 1:5 _____

Now let's go to other verses in the Bible and see what we can learn about God. When we go to other verses in the Bible to see what they say, this is called cross-referencing. Let's see who God is. How can He save us?

Turn to Isaiah 14 in your Bible and read verses 24 through 27.

WHAT do we see about the Lord of hosts?

Isaiah 14:24 I have _____ so it has happened,
and just as I have _____ so it will stand.

Isaiah 14:27 The LORD of hosts has _____,
and who can _____ it?

Now turn to Deuteronomy 32:39.

What do we see about God in this verse?

I am _____.

There is no god _____.

I _____.

I _____.

There is no one who _____.

Turn to Daniel 4:34-35. WHAT does King Nebuchadnezzar say about the Most High?

Daniel 4:34: The Most High is to be _____.

He lives _____.

His dominion is an _____.

His kingdom _____ from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:35: He does _____.

No one can _____.

No one can say, _____.

All these verses show us that our God is sovereign, which means God rules over everything. There is nothing in this universe that God does not have total, absolute, and complete control over.

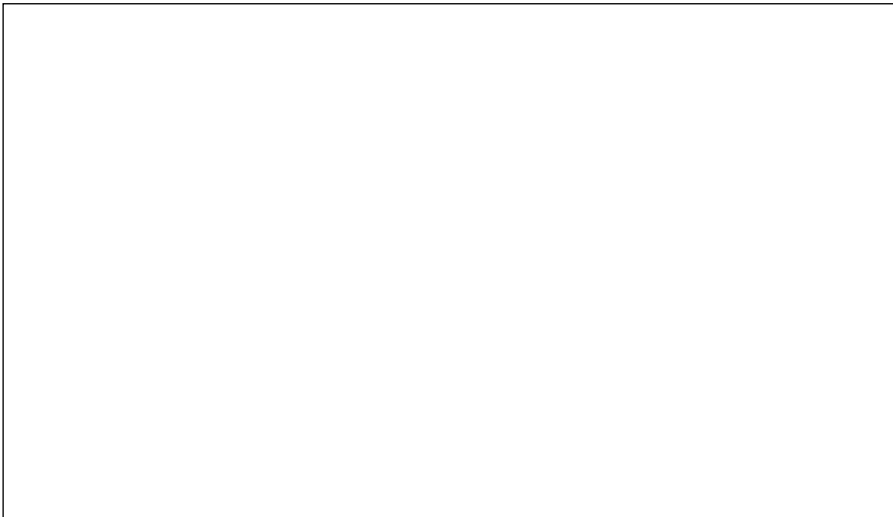
Everything that happens to us must first be okayed by God. God created everything, and He is in control of everything.

Just think, *no one* can do anything to you without God's permission. Isn't that awesome!

Romans 8:28 says, "We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." This verse shows us that if we are God's children and love Him, all things (even bad things) will turn out for good.

What a great promise from God to encourage us when bad things happen!

Why don't you draw a picture of God ruling over everyone and everything to send to Confused? That way he will have a picture of who our Most High God is.



Way to go! Aren't you excited about all that you've seen today concerning our heavenly Father?



STANDING FIRM OR TOSSED BY THE WIND?

Have you practiced your memory verse today?

Then you're ready to turn to James 1 on page 129.

Today we are going to see what James 1:1-8 has to say about faith, wisdom, and doubting. Remember, Confused is doubting God. Don't forget to pray! Then read James 1:1-8.

Now let's look at what *wisdom*, *faith*, *doubting*, and *double-minded* mean.



Wisdom means knowing the right thing to do. You show wisdom when you make the right choice.

Faith means believing God. You believe what God says in the Bible, and it shows by the way you act. You decide to do what God wants you to do.

Doubting means you aren't sure about something.

Double-minded means you keep changing your mind. You are not sure what you think, so you go back and forth trying to decide.

1. James 1:3 WHAT does God test?

2. James 1:5 HOW are we to get wisdom?

3. Look in your Bible at Daniel 2:20-23 and write down WHY we should ask God instead of people for wisdom.

Daniel 2:20 _____ and _____
belong to Him.

Daniel 2:22 It is He who _____ the pro
found and hidden things.

4. James 1:5 Is God stingy about giving us the wisdom we have asked for?

5. James 1: 6 HOW are we to ask for wisdom?
(Remember what you learned in the word box.)

6. James 1:6 WHAT pictures does James give us of a doubter?

7. James 1:7 WHAT will the doubter receive from the Lord?

8. James 1:8 HOW is the doubter described?

Now let's write another letter to Confused and share what we have learned about God, faith, wisdom, and doubting.

Dear Confused,

I just wanted to share with you what I have learned from studying James about God, faith, wisdom, and doubting.

God is sovereign. That means that He is in control of everything that happens to us, like your breaking your leg. Deuteronomy 32:39 says, "It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal." When I have trials, I am to go to God and ask Him for _____ without _____. If I turn to God and believe what He says, trials will not be able to toss me around like the surf is tossed by the wind. God will give me the wisdom I have asked for to help me endure the trial. Just remember who God is, ask Him for His help, and lean on His promise in Romans 8:28 that He will use this circumstance for good.

I will be praying for you that God will use your broken leg to help you handle trials His way.

Asking in faith,

Just for fun, see if you can solve this rebus. A rebus is a word puzzle that mixes pictures and words. When you combine the pictures and letters by adding or subtracting letters, you will end up with a new word.

Hint: The answer to this rebus is one of the verses you're memorizing this week.



You're doing great! We know that God is pleased with all your hard work.

P.S. Here's an exercise that you can do to demonstrate putting your trust in the right place—in God. Take a yardstick and try balancing it straight up and down while looking down at your hand. As long as you are looking at your hand (this represents trusting yourself), you cannot balance the yardstick. But if you look up at the top of the yardstick while

trying to balance it, it works. This is just like looking up to God and putting your trust in Him, instead of in yourself.



RICH MAN, POOR MAN

The editor, Mr. Chase, just came by and said we have room for one more letter before the paper goes to print. So let's begin today by digging into our stack of mail and answering another letter for Ellie. But before we begin, let's remember to pray so that God can give us the wisdom that we need.


Dear Ellie,

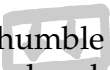
Today at school I overheard some girls making fun of my clothes. It really hurt my feelings because I thought they were my friends. I would love to have clothes like theirs, but we don't have the money for expensive clothes. I feel so left out.

H. J.

Hurt and Jealous

Hurt and Jealous (HJ) needs our help. Let's turn to James 1 on page 129 and begin our study today by marking the key words listed on the next page.

 rich man (green \$)

 humble (poor) (blue box and arrows pointing down, colored yellow)

Now that we've marked these words, let's see what God has to say about the rich man and the brother of humble circumstances (just like HJ).

Let's make a list.

Rich Man

Poor Man

Who do you think sees his need for God—the rich man or the poor man?

This is a hard passage to understand, but it is important. From the list you made, you see that the poor man is to glory in his high position.

WHY would God think being poor is a high position?

Let me ask you this: WHEN do you pray the most?

Is it *when* you need help the most? _____

Isn't that when we run to God and put our trust in Him?

Now what about the rich man? WHAT is he to glory in?

This means the rich man is to get excited when he sees his need for God. His need causes him to trust God.

What should we do for those who have needs when we have enough to share? Let's do a little cross-referencing by looking at Acts 2:42-46 at what the early church was doing.

Acts 2:45 WHAT were the believers doing?

Look up and read Acts 4:33-37.

Acts 4:34 WHAT does it say about the needy?

Acts shows us that the early believers were selling their property and possessions and sharing them with anyone who had a need. As a result of this sharing, we see that there was not a needy person among them.

What about you? Is there something you can do to help someone who has a need, or who just doesn't have clothes as nice as yours?

Maybe you could be a friend to that person by inviting him or her over to your house.

Maybe you could give this person one of your special shirts or one of your skirts.

Why don't you pray and ask God for His wisdom in how you can help someone like Hurt and Jealous.

Now that we've studied God's Word about the rich and the poor, let's see if we can help Hurt and Jealous.

Dear Hurt and Jealous,

It hurt me, too, when I read your letter and saw how you've been treated. I am studying God's Word to help me know how to handle trials God's way. And you are definitely going through a trial, a test.

This is what I learned today about being rich or poor. God places His children in different circumstances. We are to boast in the position that God has put us in. If we are poor, we may not have money or the status that the world thinks is important, but we are rich in faith. We are a child of the King! The things we have on earth don't last, but being a child of the King is forever! If you were rich, you could have some big problems like trusting in your clothes to make you popular or accepted. If we are rich, we need to guard against trusting in what we have because those things do not last. We need to trust Jesus and follow Him only.

I know it hurts to be laughed at and to be left out. But God will use this hard time to make you more like Jesus. Just remember: You have a high position. You are a child of the King if you belong to Jesus!

*I'll be praying for you and for the girls at school.
I'm going to pray that they will learn it doesn't matter what you have, but to whom you belong.*

Boasting in Him,

Take some time now and ask yourself some questions.

How do you treat kids who are different than you?

Write a response below on how you should treat others who have less than you have.

Well, it has been quite a week! Did you learn your memory verse? Did you say it to one of your friends? What did he or she think? Did it give you a chance to talk to your friend about Jesus?










Ellie and Mr. Chase are thrilled with all your hard work and help with the advice column. You're doing a great job!






ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Answer to page 22:

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

KN+  -C+  -W
T+   -R-A-D
 +ING  -F
YOUR  -N+ITH
PRODUCES
 +UR+  -T+CE

Answer to page 33:

	1		2		3		
	W		V	3	G	O	D
	O		A		O		
	R		R		O		
4	D	E	C	E	I	V	E
			A		6		
5	T	E	M	P	T	E	D
			I	7	E	V	I
			O		A		L
	9	S	I	N			U
							S
							T

OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

JAMES

Chapter 1

- 1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.
- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But he must *ask in faith* without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,
- 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- 9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;
- 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.
- 11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.
- 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Chapter 2

1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.

2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,

3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF," you are doing well.

9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

11 For He who said, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," also said, "DO NOT

COMMIT MURDER." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God.

24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Chapter 3

1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things.

See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

10 from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor can salt water produce fresh.

13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Chapter 4

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.

12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Chapter 5

- 1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.
- 2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.
- 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!
- 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.
- 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.
- 6 You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.
- 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.
- 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.
- 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.
- 10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
- 11 We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

12 But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but your yes is to be yes, and your no, no, so that you may not fall under judgment.

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

18 Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

JOSHUA 6:17-19**Chapter 6**

17 "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

18 "But as for you, only keep yourselves from the things under the ban, so that you do not covet them and take some of the things under the ban, and make the camp of Israel accursed and bring trouble on it.

19 "But all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

JOSHUA 7:1-26**Chapter 7**

1 But the sons of Israel acted unfaithfully in regard to the things under the ban, for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, took some of the things under the ban, therefore the anger of the LORD burned against the sons of Israel.

2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Bethaven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

3 They returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few."

4 So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai.

5 The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them

down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, both he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

7 Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why did You ever bring this people over the Jordan, only to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan!

8 "O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned their back before their enemies?

9 "For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will You do for Your great name?"

10 So the LORD said to Joshua, "Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face?

11 "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things.

12 "Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst.

13 "Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, "Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the LORD, the God of Israel, has said, "There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

14 'In the morning then you shall come near by your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes by lot shall come near by families, and the family which the LORD takes shall come near by households, and the household which the LORD takes shall come near man by man.

15 'It shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel.'"

16 So Joshua arose early in the morning and brought Israel near by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

17 He brought the family of Judah near, and he took the family of the Zerahites; and he brought the family of the Zerahites near man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

18 He brought his household near man by man; and Achan, son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was taken.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I implore you, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give praise to Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me."

20 So Achan answered Joshua and said, "Truly, I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I did:

21 when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it."

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was concealed in his tent with the silver underneath it.

23 They took them from inside the tent and brought them to Joshua

and to all the sons of Israel, and they poured them out before the LORD.

24 Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor.

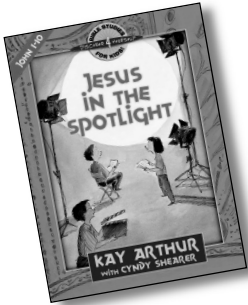
25 Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." And all Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

26 They raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger.

Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day.

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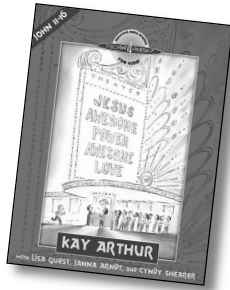
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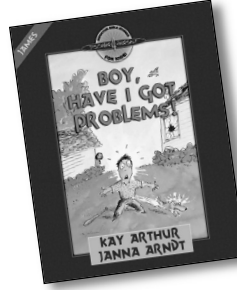
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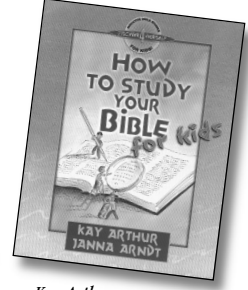
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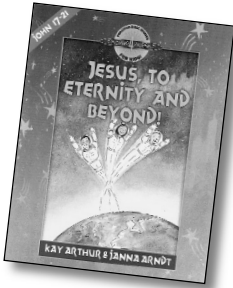
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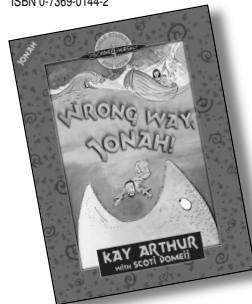
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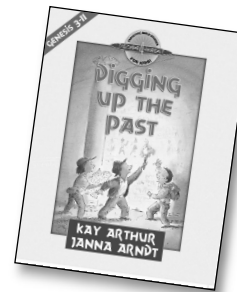
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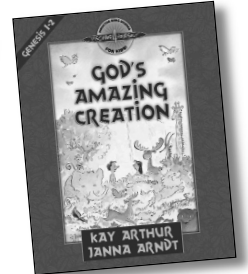
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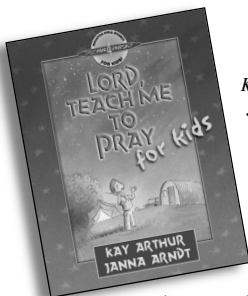
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