

THE LETTER OF JAMES

The letter of James in the New Testament is a natural follow-up to our church-wide study on discipleship. Here, James teaches us what it means to be “doers of the word”, living out the good news we have received in Jesus Christ. Join us for this five-week study led by some of our lay Bible teachers!

SMALL GROUPS: 10:30 – 11:00 AM IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Immediately after the teaching you have the opportunity for breakout discussions. You may join one of the tables on the sides of the Hall Life Center (HLC) or breakout into one of the groups around campus. Small group locations are listed below. If you are a visitor, or not sure of which small group to join, please feel free to talk to the instructor or staff members who will be glad to help!

TEACHING SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LESSON</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
October 22	James 1	Meg Rice
October 29	James 2	Stephen Loftin
November 5	James 3	Tony Mayer
November 12	James 4	Calvin Harris
November 19	James 5	Tom Knudson
November 26	NO TEACHING	

AVAILABLE SMALL GROUPS

<u>GROUP NAME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Blain/Walters	Chapel Family Room
Cloonan/Newman	Rector’s Office (Rm 232)
Hall, Anne	Church Family Room
Mayer/Hutcheson	Rm 203
McGee/Batchelor	Rm 122
Moore/Megow	Rm 234
Rucker/Shepherd	Rm 208
Sutherland/Letton	Sid Smith Chapel (Rm. L25)

Warning to the Rich

5 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. **2**Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. **3**Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. **4**Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **5**You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. **6**You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Patience in Suffering

November 19, 2023

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers,^[a] until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. ¹² But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

The Prayer of Faith

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.^[b] ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you think and/or how did you feel about today's reading and teaching?
2. As an affluent parish, SJD might seem to be a target of James in verses 1-6. Do you believe SJD uses the resources entrusted to it wisely? How might we do better?
3. James talks about the virtues of patience. In what ways do we role model patience at SJD? In what ways do we fall short? Certainly, we've never grumbled have we...?
4. James echoes Jesus' teaching of "let your yes be yes and your no be no" in the Sermon on the Mount in Mt 5:33-37. Why do you think this is?
5. James closes with the Prayer of Faith and the behavior of the community relative to one another and God. How can we more closely model that at SJD in the months and years to come?