

Introduction to James

August 9, 2026

Bible Passage: James 1:1 *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.*

Introduction:

Big Idea: James came to a place where Jesus changed him at the core of his being. In the letter of James, he invites each of us to possess a _____ **THAT WORKS.**

Fighter Memory Verse

AUGUST

Proverbs 19:11

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

#1-James Who? What's the identity of James? (James 1:1; Mark 3:21,31-35; John 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

- Which "James" of the New Testament wrote the letter?
Two possibilities:
 - James the _____
 - James the ½ _____ of Jesus
 - James the ½ brother of Jesus is the best _____
- QUESTION---why does James not begin his letter with "James the brother of Jesus"?
 - **ANSWER: the _____ relationship was irrelevant to James spiritual _____.**
- The gospel testifies that Jesus' own siblings did not believe in him. James placed his _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ.

#2-Who are the recipients of this letter? (James 1:1; Acts 8,11)

- "To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings."
 - These are Jews who were scattered from Jerusalem throughout middle east and Europe because of _____.
 - Pastor James is concerned about them and he feels the weight of the hard _____ they are dealing with as they navigate the persecution—scattering.

#3-What is the purpose behind the letter of James?

- To encourage spiritual stability
 - Faith produces _____
 - Trials grow _____
 - God gives wisdom
 - Prayer _____
- To remind that authentic discipleship involves _____ (James 3:5-8)
- To redirect focus to the _____ (James 1:12)

TRUTH INTO ACTION

- James was close in proximity to Jesus but being close isn't the same as trusting him as the LORD Jesus Christ. **Place your faith in Jesus, like James did to be your DELIVER-SAVIOR.**
- The identity of James was shaped by his relationship with Jesus. **Fix your identity in Jesus...nothing else matters.**
- The "twelve tribes were scattered" because of persecution. **When life is unsettling let the reality of Jesus settle you.**

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Warm Up: What's a nickname or title someone has given you—funny or meaningful? How does that compare to how you would describe yourself?

James opens his letter with a posture of humility, identifying himself as a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. He writes to Jewish believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire—people who were likely experiencing pressure, persecution, and isolation from others (James 1:1).

1. Why do you think James introduces himself as a “servant” *of God and the Lord Jesus Christ* rather than any other title, role, or relationship?
2. What would it look like to let your identity be shaped more by your relationship to Jesus than by your role, background, or achievements?
3. James wrote to the “twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad”.
 - What challenges did these early Jewish believers face? (See Acts 8:1–4; John 9:22; Hebrews 10:32–34 for background)
 - How does the context of the dispersed tribes relate to moments in your life when you've faced challenges, felt scattered, or experienced spiritual displacement?

Prayer: Father, I do not want to have a faith that just hears your word but doesn't obey it. Please use this sermon series to cultivate a FAITH THAT WORKS in me. With all the power and authority in the name of Jesus I ask, AMEN!

RESOURCES:

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-james/>