



TEACH ME
THE BIBLE PODCAST

STUDY GUIDE

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CHAPTER

4

THE BOOK OF

J A M E S

Faith, Works and Blessing



James 4

If you are new to the Story of the Bible or would like to review the Story:
Listen to the following TMTB Podcasts:

The Story: Understanding the “Big Story” (30 min)

Old Testament: Walk Through the Broad Story (27 min)

Timeline: New Testament Beginnings (35 min)

Letters: Paul’s Writing to the Churches–Part 1 (30 min)

REVIEW

In James 1-3, James has been carefully constructing his argument. He has established that the theology of partiality and false claims of law keeping do not lead to “*blessing*.” Instead, it is the impartial mercy of God that must be valued.

Now in chapter 4, James turns to clearly state the implications of what he has been saying. Partiality, false claims of law keeping, and false claims about having the wisdom from above are the source of conflicts and quarrels. They produce lust, sin, and a useless faith. So instead of celebrating, they should be mourning. Instead of boasting, they should be humbling themselves before the Lord. Instead of judging their fellow believers, they should remember that there is only one Lawgiver and Judge who is able to save or destroy.



James 4

MONDAY

Listen to the James 4 podcast.

TUESDAY

Reread chapters 1-2 paying special attention to the progression from lust to death in 1:13-15. Also, remember that the same Greek word that is translated “*test/trial/temptation/tempted*” is used in 1:2, 12, 13, and 14.

How does 4:2 relate to chapters 1-2.

WEDNESDAY

In Luke 16, Luke records Jesus confronting the Pharisees concerning their love of money.

Read what Jesus says about wealth in 16:11, 13, 14, and 15. Pay special attention to what the “*detestable*” thing in the sight of God (in verse 15) with what is “*highly esteemed among men.*”

Now read James 4:1-4.

Does that sound familiar? How does that change your view of money? What really matters?



James 4

THURSDAY

Read Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34; 2 Samuel 22:28; Isaiah 49:13; Amos 8:4-14; and Psalm 72.

James 4:6 states, “*God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.*” The number of passages that state this truth is extensive.

If God is opposed to the proud but gives grace for the afflicted then how ought we to regard the prideful and the afflicted?

FRIDAY

In Paul’s letters alone, the issue of “*boasting*” is mentioned 58 times. Let that sink in for a minute...58 times.

Pride, arrogance and boasting all too often characterizes our lives. However, humility and submission to God ought to characterize our lives. Read James 1-4 again. James’s warning is for believers who are using their errant beliefs in God as a source of pride. Yet James states that in doing so, one is making themselves an opponent of God.

Read Deuteronomy 10 again.

Why was Israel to care for the orphan, widow, and alien? Should you?