

About This Workbook

This workbook presents an opportunity for our church congregation (or anyone else for that matter) to be reading and meditating on the same scriptures together. You don't have to use it, of course. Many people have their own preferred ways of spending daily time with God. But for those who would like to join us, we think this is a pretty good (and pretty easy!) way to do it.

These daily scripture meditations will correspond to the second 6 weeks of Christ's Center's 12 week teaching series on the book of James, which we began in February of 2021. Every Sunday, the pastors will preach through one of twelve teachings of the book. These meditations will begin in James, but we will draw from scriptures all across Bible—especially from the teachings of Jesus—which touch on these same themes. Here are the themes from the final 6 weeks:

- Week 7: Boasting About Tomorrow (James 4:13-17)
- Week 8: Danger of Wealth (James 5:1-6)
- Week 9: Patience & Endurance (James 5:7-11)
- Week 10: Telling the Truth (James 5:12)
- Week 11: Faith-filled Prayer (James 5:13-18)
- Week 12: Restoring others (James 5:19-20)

Scripture meditation is a powerful practice which can draw us closer to the Lord. We encourage you to employ the S.W.O.R.D. Method (see the following page for details.)

Why James?

James is a book about faith in action. It was written by James, the brother of Jesus, to Messianic Jews who were experiencing tension, trials, and tribalism. In the letter, James calls them back to the strange and wonderful ways of Jesus Christ. The kind of faith James writes about is not merely theoretical; it is practical. In fact, if it is not practical, James argues that it isn't faith at all.

We believe the message of this book will speak clearly to our congregation. We are, after all, living through our own age of tension, trials, and tribalism. Rather than retreating from these pressures, we have the opportunity to learn how to stand firm, and to put our faith into action.

Going Deeper

For those who want to go beyond the S.W.O.R.D. Drill and have a little more time, the Going Deeper section can serve as a helpful short Bible study. For this part, you'll want to use your own Bible, highlighters, and journal. The instructions in this section are just suggestions, of course. Sometimes we will encourage you to read the surrounding chapter for proper context, and draw your attentions to various ideas. Sometimes we'll direct you to different passages, and ask you pointed questions.

For sermon videos or for more information, check out our website: www.ChristsCenter.com.

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Monday

James 4:13-14 MSG And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that."

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we're taking time to ask ourselves, "Am I boasting in anything besides Christ? Is my security in anything else (money, talent, relationships, etc)?" Let the Lord search your heart, and ask Him to help you boast in Him and Him alone.

**Afternoon
or Evening
Meditation**

Take a few minutes to quiet your heart before the Lord. Revisit today's Dedication (above). Pray it through again, and thank God for hearing you.

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Tuesday

Proverbs 27:1-2 ESV Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

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**Afternoon
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Pray the Prayer of Examen before you go to bed (see Page 3).

Morning Meditations
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Wednesday

Matthew 6:33-34 ESV But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Scripture _____

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Morning Meditations
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Thursday

James 4:15-17 ESV Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Morning Meditations
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Friday

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord."

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Saturday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Matthew 25:37-40 ESV Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

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Monday

James 5:1-6 And a final word to you arrogant rich: Take some lessons in lament. You'll need buckets for the tears when the crash comes upon you. Your money is corrupt and your fine clothes stink. Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within. You thought you were piling up wealth. What you've piled up is judgment.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we're examining our hearts and attitudes about those around us who need extra help. Ask yourself, "How do I treat those who are asking me for help? How do I think about them? Do I find myself looking down on them?" Ask the Lord to help you see people the way He sees them.

**Afternoon
or Evening
Meditation**

Take a few minutes to quiet your heart before the Lord. Revisit today's Dedication (above). Pray it through again, and thank God for hearing you.

Tuesday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Mt 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Morning Meditations
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Wednesday

Prov 22:22-23 Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, for the LORD will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.

Scripture _____

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Thursday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Luke 12:15 "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

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Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Friday

Luke 12:16-21 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

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Morning Meditations
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James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Scripture _____

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Morning Meditations
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Monday

James 5:8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are asking ourselves, "Are there places in my life where I am trying to rush God's timing? Am I grumbling? Where have I lost patience?" Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. Ask Him to help you grow.

**Afternoon
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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

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Morning Meditations
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Wednesday

James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

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Thursday

Ephesians 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Scripture _____

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Friday

James 5:12 (MSG) And since you know that he cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you.

Scripture _____

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Matthew 5:35-37 (MSG) You don't make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true. Just say 'yes' and 'no.' When you manipulate words to get your own way, you go wrong.

Scripture _____

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Monday

James 5:12 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.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are examining our speech, particularly in the area of truths and half-truths. Ask yourself: "Do I let my 'yes be yes' and my 'no be no,' or has my speech become a vehicle for manipulating people?"

**Afternoon
or Evening
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Tuesday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Matt 5:37 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

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Wednesday

John 14:5-6 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Scripture _____

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Thursday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Psalm 15:1-2 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
and speaks truth in his heart;

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Friday

Prov 30:5-6 Every word of God proves true;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
Do not add to his words,
lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

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I Cor 13:6 [Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Scripture _____

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Monday

James 5:13-16 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 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. 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. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are contemplating times we have seen God answer our prayers, and times we felt like He did not answer them. Take some time with the Lord to reflect on those instances, both in thanksgiving, and in honest lament. What is He saying to you?

Afternoon or Evening Meditation

Take a few minutes to quiet your heart before the Lord. Revisit today's Dedication (above). Pray it through again, and thank God for hearing you.

Tuesday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

1 John 1:8-9 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Wednesday

Matt 21:21-22 And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Scripture _____

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

James 5:17-18 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 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. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Morning Meditations
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Friday

Luke 11:9-10 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Luke 11:11-12 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Monday

James 5:19-20 MSG My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are asking the Lord about people we might need to reach out to for purposes of restoration. Ask God, "Is there anyone I have wounded in a past confrontation whose forgiveness I need to seek? Is there anyone I need to confront in love and gentleness?" If so, ask for Him for the right time, the right words, and the right heart.

**Afternoon
or Evening
Meditation**

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Tuesday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Matthew 18:12-14 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Scripture _____

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Wednesday

James 5:19-20 My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, 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.

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Morning Meditations
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Thursday

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

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Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Friday

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are asking the Lord about people we might need to reach out to for purposes of restoration. Ask God, "Is there anyone I have wounded in a past confrontation whose forgiveness I need to seek? Is there anyone I need to confront in love and gentleness?" If so, ask for Him for the right time, the right words, and the right heart.

**Afternoon
or Evening
Meditation**

Take a few minutes to quiet your heart before the Lord. Revisit today's Dedication (above). Pray it through again, and thank God for hearing you.

Saturday

Morning Meditations
Start with 2 minutes of silence before God

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Scripture _____

Wait _____

Observe _____

Request _____

Dedicate _____

Going Deeper:
This week, we are asking the Lord about people we might need to reach out to for purposes of restoration. Ask God, "Is there anyone I have wounded in a past confrontation whose forgiveness I need to seek? Is there anyone I need to confront in love and gentleness?" If so, ask for Him for the right time, the right words, and the right heart.

**Afternoon
or Evening
Meditation**

Pray the Prayer of Examen before you go to bed (see Page 3).