

Quarter 4
Lesson 10
Sixth Grade
I Want to Be a Worker
James

Memory Verse: "7...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you..."

James 4: 7b-8a

Background

Most Biblical scholars believe that the book of James was written by James, the oldest of Jesus' four younger brothers. As strange as it may seem to us today, Jesus' siblings were skeptical about His ministry. They did not become believers until after His crucifixion and resurrection. However, in the Book of Acts, we see James emerge as a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

In this book, James gives practical ways to better live the Christian life. **To those who think it is enough just to believe in God**, James says, "**The devils also believe, and tremble...**" Heb 2:19. So there has got to be more involved in getting to heaven than just believing in God. James shows that **good works will follow true faith**. He encourages Christians to look at hardships as opportunities for spiritual growth, to control their tongues, to make peace, to avoid favoritism, and to help the needy. Let's look more closely at some of the things James teaches us.

James 1:12-15

As we have studied in earlier lessons, the first Christians endured many hardships and temptations. James reminds us that "**12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.**"

When life gets hard and the devil knocks on our doors with temptations, God has promised a home in heaven to those who stay faithful. Sometimes it is

easy for people to blame God when things go wrong. After all, He is the Creator. He is the God of love and goodness. So if bad things happen to me or to my family, is that God's fault? NO! Unfortunately, sometimes bad things happen to good people, but that goes all the way back to Adam and Eve and the first sin. If



no one had ever sinned, we would still be living in a perfect world!

James continues, "13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for **God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one.***" God is not the one tempting us. The devil is! God is on our side! So how are we tempted?

"14 *But **each person is tempted** when he is lured and enticed **by his own desire.** 15 *Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*" The devil tempts us by trying to make bad things look good or at least to not look sooo bad. Has he ever whispered in your ear, "Come on. It will be fun. Nobody will know"? Maybe he has said, "Just this one time," or "Everybody else is doing it." He uses countless other lies, too. Don't listen to him! Do what you know is right.*



James 1:19-20



"19 *Know this, my beloved brothers: **let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;** 20 *for the **anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.***"*

This verse is pretty self-explanatory. God gave us two ears and one mouth. What should that tell us?

James 2:1-9

In these verses James reminds us that God does not show partiality when it comes to faith. He gives the example of two men coming into the assembly: a rich man dressed in fine clothing and a poor man dressed in shabby clothing. The rich man is given a good seat, but the poor man is asked to either stand "over there" or to sit at someone's feet. James says, "6 ...you have



dishonored the poor man..." In verse 9, he adds, "But if you show partiality, you are committing sin..." This should be a definite reminder to us about how we are expected to treat people.

James 2:14-19

*"14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If someone is in need and we say to them, "Well, I hope everything turns out okay for you," and we do nothing to help, what good have we done? How have we glorified God? "17 So also **faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead...20 faith apart from works is useless...**" Our good works are proof of our faith.*



How are you showing good works?

James 3

In this chapter James discusses the tongue, that is, the way we talk both to and about others. The tongue is a small member of the body, but, wow, can it stir up trouble when we fail to control it! Have you ever said something you wished had never come out of your mouth? We all have made that mistake. We have learned the hard way that once a word is spoken, it can never be reeled back in.



The Tongue

"2 For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.



4 Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire...staining the whole body setting on fire the entire course of life..."



How many lives have been hurt by wagging tongues, gossip, half-truths, lies! Before we speak to or about others, we need to first think, "Is what I am about to say kind; is it necessary; is it encouraging?"

Man has been able to tame all kinds of animals, but he cannot tame the tongue.

"8...It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing, My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water."



Since the tongue cannot be tamed, and no one is perfect, does that mean we can get away with saying whatever we want whenever we want? Certainly not! What then does this passage mean? James is telling us that we are to **try our best to control what we say.**

It is very upsetting to me to hear people, both young and old, take God's name in vain. It is all over TV, in movies, in school, and, sadly, in many homes. Some people don't even realize what they are doing. They feel it is acceptable to frequently use euphemisms (**ū'** fə-miz'ms), words or phrases that are less offensive which are substituted for others which are offensive. This refers to some slang words which carry the same meanings as curse words as well as words which mean God. In conversation, to say God's name as a phrase showing excitement, surprise, dismay, etc., which has nothing to do with His Holiness, is taking the name of our Creator in vain. To protect ourselves from this sinful form of disrespect to our Maker, remember this: we should **speak God's name only when talking to Him and when talking about Him.** Why else would we need to utter His name?

The tongue is a powerful part of the body. It can be used for evil or for good. Its words can incite bullying, anger, fear, hatred, hurt feelings, etc. However, words can also be used to teach, to encourage, to comfort, to bring about peace, to express love, and to uplift people. How do you use your words?

James 4:7-8, 10

In these verses James summarizes the way Christians are to live:

"7 Submit yourselves therefore to God...



Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."





***"8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...
10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (NKJV)***

Assignment 1

How do you react when you become angry and lose your temper? Won't talk to people? Say hateful things? Become violent--hit, slap, etc.? Go to your room and slam the door? Yell? What are some better ways to handle your anger?

Write down two things that tend to make you lose your temper. Now think about the things we have discussed in this lesson. Beside each item, write what you can do to better handle that anger.

Assignment 2

Look in the church directory. Find someone to whom you can send a card. It might be to someone who is sick or a shut-in, someone who has lost a family member, a birthday greeting, or a note of appreciation--anything that would be an encouragement. You can use a store-bought card, generate one on the computer, or, best of all, make one by hand. Use your best handwriting. Just in case you have forgotten how to address an envelope, I have included an example below:

Your Name
Your House Number and Street
City, State Zip Code

Stamp
Goes
Here

Person's Name
Their House Number and Street
City, State Zip Code
