

Letters From Heaven



Lesson 10

I Want to Be a Worker

Theme: Faith—Demonstrated by works of love, kindness and respect

Memory Verse

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....”

Hebrews 12:1-2

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 James 1:1-11, 21-27
- 2 James 2:1-9, 14-20
- 3 James 3
- 4 James 4:7-17
- 5 James 5:8-18

James was Jesus’ brother, but he did not brag about this. He was happy just to be Jesus’ servant, and this is what he called himself when he wrote to Christians about living for Jesus. His letter is a practical letter. Do you know what this means? You can see that the word “practical” is related to the word “practice.” Something that is practical is something we practice or do. James writes to Christians about their actions – what we do to live for Jesus.

After this lesson you should be able to ...

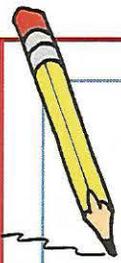
- Define “practical.”
- Describe two good uses of the tongue.
- Describe two bad uses of the tongue.
- Identify that faith and works go together.

James 1:1-11, 21-27

When our faith is tested with temptations or hard things, this helps to make us a) angry, b) better, c) tired, d) sad.

Choose the correct combination that tells what we are to do with God’s Word.

- Write and hear
- Hear and laugh
- Hear and do
- Write and do



James 2:1-9, 14-20

When a rich person comes to worship with us, we should treat him or her a) the same as everyone else, b) better than anyone else, c) worse than anyone else.

Choose the correct combination that describes what should always go with faith:

- Faith and words
- Faith and thoughts
- Faith and works
- Faith and friends

Faith that Works

Imagine someone wants to give you \$100 as a gift. You did not work to earn this money. The person did not owe it to you. It is a gift. The giver tells you to come to his house at 2 PM next Tuesday and bring a small white envelope in which to carry the \$100. So what do you do?

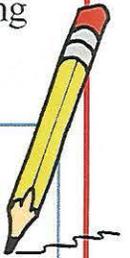
Will you go to someone else's house? Will you go on Wednesday instead of Tuesday because that is more convenient? Will you carry a plastic bag instead of an envelope

because you like it better? No, if you want the \$100, you'll do exactly what the giver said, won't you? And if you follow the instructions and receive the money, it is still a gift. You did not work for it, but you received it in the way the giver chose to give it.

Faith and works work this way. God has a wonderful gift for us – the gift of forgiving our sins. God gave Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, so we can be forgiven. God explains that our sins can be forgiven by being joined with Jesus – by believing in Him and being baptized. When we do this, we are not working to be saved, but we are receiving God's gift in the way He directs in His Word. This is faith that works!

James 3

James warns that the tongue is like a a) wind, b) beast, c) fire.

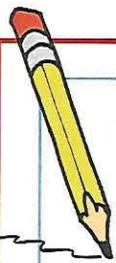


James' Practical Letter

In his letter, James never describes Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection, but he shows how these events must be applied in our lives each day. James never writes about how a person is redeemed in Christ or how the church is the body of Christ. But he writes a lot about living for Jesus. He shows how what we believe about Jesus should show up in what we do each day. In this way, James writes a practical letter

For example, James writes that Christians should be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. That's practical, isn't it? James says that to live for Jesus we must listen well, talk carefully, and be slow about getting mad. He also says that we must not just hear God's Word but that we must also do it. James teaches us not to hear and forget, but to hear and act.

Another practical lesson from James is about our words. He warns that our words can cause a lot of trouble. The tongue is a small part of our bodies; but if we don't use it



James 4:7-17

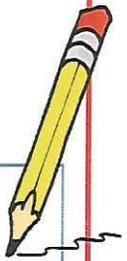
The devil will flee from us if we
a) love him, b) resist him, c) exalt
him, d) befriend him.

What is a “vapor”? How is life like a
vapor?

wisely, it can cause big problems. We must
learn to speak words that are true, kind, and
helpful.

One other practical lesson James teaches
is that when we do wrong, we should be
willing to say so. We shouldn't hide what
we've done or lie about it. It is best to say
we have done wrong, ask for forgiveness,
and then try to do better next time.

Faith that works. That's what we need
– faith that listens to the Word of God and
obeys it.



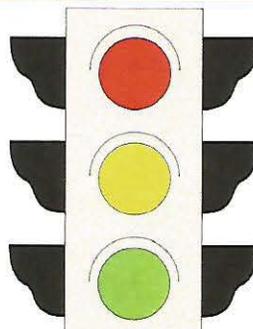
James 5:8-18

Match the following:

Suffering	Sing praises
Cheerful	Call the elders to pray
Sick	Pray

We confess our sins to each other so we can
a) gossip about each other, b) laugh at each
other, c) pray for each other.

I am slow to get
angry.

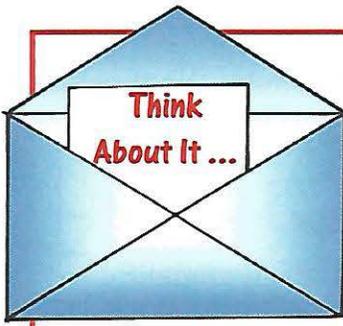


Put an X in the light that
best describes you.

Red — sometimes

Yellow — usually

Green — almost always



Think again about faith that works. This is faith that hears, believes, and acts. James teaches us to be careful about our words. You “believe” that what James writes about our words is from God. Describe here two “works” that come from what you believe.

Say the twelve sons of Jacob. Fill in the missing names:

Reuben, _____, Levi, _____,
Judah, _____, Issachar, _____,
Benjamin, _____, Gad, _____.



Which book in the New Testament is about being ready for Jesus?

On a map inside the back cover, locate the city of Caesarea Philippi.