

JUNE 21 - AUGUST 13, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Summer often brings a different rhythm to life. Vacations, campsites, sporting events, family gatherings, and longer evenings can fill our calendars. Yet these months can also provide a unique opportunity to slow down, look in the mirror and deepen our walk with Christ.

This summer, we will journey through the Book of James — a practical and challenging letter that teaches us what authentic faith looks like in everyday life. Many scholars have referred to James as the “*Sermon on the Mount in action*” because of the remarkable parallels between James’ teaching and Jesus’ words in **Matthew 5–7**.

As we read, we’ll regularly move between James and the Sermon on the Mount, allowing Jesus’ teaching and James’ application to interpret and reinforce one another. Together, we’ll discover that genuine faith is not merely something we believe — it is something we live.

LISTEN WITH DWELL

One of the simplest ways to stay consistent in your reading this summer is to listen. Dwell is an audio Bible app designed for slow, prayerful engagement with Scripture — not just information, but formation. Our church provides free access to Dwell for every attender. To get started, visit **jacobsowellchurch.church/resources** and follow the link to set up your free account.

SCAN HERE



DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Use these two questions every day throughout the summer, regardless of what passage you are reading, and journal if you would like:

- 1. What does this passage reveal about who God is, what He values, or how His kingdom works?**
(Look for what is being said about God’s character, Jesus’ teaching, or the nature of true faith.)
- 2. What is one specific way God may be inviting me to respond — in belief, attitude, or action — today?** (Don’t just ask what the passage means. Ask what it means for you, right now.)

FURTHER RESOURCES

Want to go deeper this summer? *RightNow Media* is a free streaming library of thousands of Bible studies and video series. Sign up at **jacobsowellchurch.church** and look for the RightNow Media link to create your free account.

Primary Recommendation — *The Book of James with Francis Chan*. Francis Chan teaches through every chapter of James across 12 video sessions. Access it directly at:
rightnowmedia.org/content/series/159923

CONTINUED



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 (JUN 21-27) – FOUNDATION

The goal of this week is orientation. Before we dive into individual passages, we want to see the whole landscape.

Day 1: Psalm 138

Day 2: The Whole Book of James *(Read or listen in one sitting — ~15–20 min. Let the full arc land before we slow down.)*

Day 3: The Whole Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5–7 *(Read or listen in one sitting — ~20–25 min.*

Hear Jesus' vision of kingdom life from beginning to end.)

Day 4: Matthew 5:1–12 — The Beatitudes

Day 5: James 1:1–4

WEEK 2 (JUN 28–JULY 4) TRIALS, WISDOM, & TRUST

Day 1: James 1:2–8 + Matthew 5:3–10

Day 2: James 1:9–12

Day 3: James 1:13–18 + Matthew 6:13

Day 4: James 1:19–21 + Matthew 5:21–22

Day 5: James 1:22–27 + Matthew 7:24–27

WEEK 3 (JULY 5–11) HEARING & DOING

Day 1: James 2:1–7 + Matthew 5:3

Day 2: James 2:8–13 + Matthew 5:43–48

Day 3: James 2:14–17 + Matthew 25:35–40

Day 4: James 2:18–20 + Matthew 7:21–23

Day 5: James 2:21–26 + Matthew 5:14–16

WEEK 4 (JULY 12–18) FAITH IN ACTION

Day 1: James 3:1–5 + Matthew 12:36–37

Day 2: James 3:6–12

Day 3: James 3:13–16 + Matthew 5:9

Day 4: James 3:17–18 + Matthew 5:3–9

Day 5: James 4:1–6 + Matthew 6:24

WEEK 5 (JULY 19–25) THE POWER OF WORDS & WISDOM

Day 1: James 4:7–10 + Matthew 6:16–18

Day 2: James 4:11–12 + Matthew 7:1–5

Day 3: James 4:13–17 + Matthew 6:33–34

Day 4: James 5:1–6 + Matthew 6:19–21

Day 5: James 5:7–11 + Matthew 5:10–12

WEEK 6 (JULY 26–AUG. 1) PRAYER & PATIENCE

Day 1: James 5:12 + Matthew 5:33–37

Day 2: James 5:13–15 + Matthew 6:5–8

Day 3: James 5:16–18 + Matthew 6:9–13

(The Lord's Prayer)

Day 4: James 5:19–20 + Matthew 18:12–14

Day 5: Philippians 2:1–11

WEEK 7 (AUG. 2–8) SURRENDERED LIVING

A second pass through James in larger sections

Day 1: James 1:1–11 + Matthew 6:25–34

Day 2: James 1:12–27 + Matthew 7:7–11

Day 3: James 2:1–26 + Matthew 5:14–16

Day 4: James 3:1–18 + Matthew 5:33–37

Day 5: James 4:1–17 + Matthew 6:19–24

WEEK 8 (AUG. 9–13) – THE FULL PICTURE: RETURNING TO WHERE WE STARTED

Day 1: James 5:1–20 + Matthew 6:33

Day 2: Matthew 5:13–16 + Matthew 6:1–4

Day 3: Matthew 7:13–23

Day 4: The Whole Book of James *(Read or listen again in one sitting. What do you notice now that you didn't in Week 1?)*

Day 5: The Whole Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5–7

(Read or listen again in full. What has the summer taught you about living these words?)

