

## **Bible & Bacon – James 1 Handout**

### **Faith That Works**

#### **Theme**

Faith is revealed in how we respond to trials and truth.

#### **Big Idea**

Spiritual maturity is formed through testing—and expressed through action.

#### **Read Ahead: James 1**

As you read, don't rush. Pay attention to what stands out and where it connects to your life right now.

#### **Section 1 – Trials and Perseverance**

*(James 1:2–4)*

##### **What to Look For**

- How we respond when life is difficult
- The purpose of trials in shaping our faith
- What perseverance actually produces

##### **Key Verse**

“Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds.” — James 1:2

##### **Reflection Questions**

- How do I typically respond when things don't go the way I expect?
- Where might God be using a current challenge to grow something deeper in me?
- What would it look like to trust God's purpose in the middle of difficulty?

#### **Section 2 – Wisdom and Perspective**

*(James 1:5–8)*

##### **What to Look For**

- God's willingness to give wisdom
- The connection between faith and trust

- What it means to be “double-minded”

### **Key Verse**

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God...” — James 1:5

### **Reflection Questions**

- Where do I need clarity or direction right now?
- Do I go to God first, or do I try to figure things out on my own?
- What does it look like to trust God fully, not halfway?

## **Section 3 – Hearing and Doing the Word**

*(James 1:19–25)*

### **What to Look For**

- The importance of listening before reacting
- The difference between hearing and doing
- What it means to truly apply God’s Word

### **Key Verse**

“Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.” — James 1:22

### **Reflection Questions**

- Where am I quick to speak or react instead of listening?
- Is there something I know I should be doing—but haven’t acted on?
- What is one way I can live out what I’m learning this week?

## **Section 4 – What Real Faith Looks Like**

*(James 1:26–27)*

### **What to Look For**

- The connection between faith and everyday behavior
- How we speak, care for others, and live with integrity
- A simple picture of “true religion”

### **Key Verse**

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this...” — James 1:27

## Reflection Questions

- What do my words reveal about my faith?
  - Where am I being called to care for someone else more intentionally?
  - How can I live with greater consistency between what I believe and how I live?
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## As You Read

Keep this question in mind:

**Where is God inviting me to grow—not just in what I believe, but in how I live?**

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## For Our Discussion

We'll read through parts of the chapter together and talk about:

- What stands out
- What challenges us
- Where it connects to real life

No pressure to have answers—just come ready to engage.

## Closing Thought

James begins with a challenge:

**Faith grows in the middle of real life—not apart from it.**

## **Bible & Bacon – James 2 Handout**

### **Faith That Works**

#### **Theme**

Faith is revealed in how we treat people and how we live.

#### **Big Idea**

Genuine faith doesn't stay internal—it shows up in action.

#### **Read Ahead: James 2**

As you read, don't overthink it. Just notice what stands out and where it connects to real life.

### **Section 1 – Favoritism and How We Treat People**

*(James 2:1–13)*

#### **What to Look For**

- How we respond to people of different status
- The connection between **mercy and judgment**
- What it means to love your neighbor

#### **Key Verse**

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing right.” — James 2:8

#### **Reflection Questions**

- Where do I naturally show favoritism—without even realizing it?
- Do I treat people differently based on what they can offer me?
- What would it look like to show consistent mercy in my daily interactions?

### **Section 2 – Faith and Works**

*(James 2:14–26)*

#### **What to Look For**

- The relationship between **belief and action**
- What “dead faith” looks like

- Examples of faith that actually moves

### **Key Verse**

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” — James 2:17

### **Reflection Questions**

- Where is my faith clearly visible in my life right now?
- Are there areas where I believe the right things but don’t act on them?
- What is one small step of obedience I know I need to take?

### **As You Read**

Keep this question in mind:

**If my faith is real, where should it be showing up that it isn’t right now?**

### **For Our Discussion**

We’ll read through parts of the chapter together and talk about:

- What stands out
- What challenges us
- Where it connects to real life

No pressure to have answers—just come ready to engage.

### **Closing Thought**

James doesn’t ask if we *have* faith.

He asks:

**Is our faith alive?**