



# junction

where faith and life intersect

## James Series

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Life Together

June - July 2026



TORONTO  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

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# Pastoral

Welcome to our Junction series through the book of James.

A **junction** is where two or more things are joined and where they meet or intersect. At Toronto Christian Community Church, this series becomes the opportunity where people from different ages, backgrounds and beliefs come together to encounter the Word of God. It provides the forums for conversation between teens and parents, seekers and believers, young and mature so that we may walk together in this journey of life through the book of James.

In the book of James, the early church is facing trials and suffering while dealing with disunity and favouritism within the congregation. James teaches when we believe in Jesus, we also practically live out our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We see the connection between faith and living as God intended. Junction is where **faith and life intersect**.

We would like to encourage you all to participate. We ask that you do this by spending time reading the selected passages, reflecting upon the personal questions and committing to join us on Sundays in the months of June to July. We hope that it is a way that we as a community may be richly blessed.

At TCCC, we consider it a true privilege to be able to come before a holy and awesome God, to freely worship Him and to study His Word. We pray that all of us will take hold of that which brings clarity to life, deepens our faith and draws us closer to God. We invite you to join us to see where God wants to intersect with your heart.

With our prayers,

*Rev. Edmund Wu, Rev. Glendon Tang, Ptr. Samuel Hong,  
and Ptr. Sally Ng.*

English Pastoral Team

# Personal Preparations

To help make your Junction experience more meaningful, we encourage you to make time to do personal studies of the material to enrich your experience of Sunday's message.

To do this, you may need to set aside some time during the week (we recommend that you do this on three separate occasions). Allowing adequate time at this frequency would be helpful for you to dig deep into the passages and will prompt you to think about the underlying principles.

## 1. Prayer

Always start your personal study time in PRAYER and invite the Holy Spirit to guide you in your reflection.

## 2. Read the Chapter/Passages Assigned for the Week

## 3. Reflection and Personal Notes

After reading the passage, reflect on the passage and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word. Write down your thoughts as you read so that you can reference them later if you want.

After finishing the chapter you may want to go back and reread the passage to see how your thoughts and perspectives may have changed. We encourage you to be completely honest when writing out your thoughts and questions. Don't be afraid to challenge yourself in your reflection, as growth can be achieved in this way.

## 4. Go Through The Personal Questions Provided

The personal reflection questions give you an opportunity to meditate upon and learn from the weekly passages. It gives you an opportunity to spend time with the Lord to grow spiritually as well as in preparation for Sunday messages and discussions.

Through a time of reflection, we encourage you to bring along to the table discussions any notes of observations or questions that arise during your times of reflection.

## 5. Attend a Table Talk Discussion

Community is a good way to enhance an individual's learning experience. In Proverbs 27:17, it reads *"as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."* This too happens at the table talk. Our congregation holds weekly discussions after the sermon messages, where groups meet to share, discuss and challenge each other on the material of the week. After our worship service, we invite you to join our table talk during the Junction series. All you need to bring is this booklet, your Bible, your notes, and an open-mind to join the discussion. The idea is to have a free-flowing and natural conversation with participants at your table. Please be mindful of the different opinions others may have. Be considerate and open-minded to different ideas. We also encourage each group to pray for one another as we grow together. Through our Junction series, we want to welcome you to come experience Christian community!

# Background and Overview

## **Date:**

Mid-40s AD

As James was martyred early in AD62, this letter would be attributed to earlier years and may arguably be one of the first letters written in the New Testament.

## **Author:**

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:1)

Many sources have concluded that James is the brother of Jesus, as found in Matthew 15. He is mentioned in the New Testament as a respected leader of the early Christian church in Jerusalem. James is well known enough to influence the conduct of Peter and noticed by the apostle Paul (Galatians 2). He teaches with wisdom and leads with courage, truly a pillar of the Jerusalem church.

## **Audience:**

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion (1:1)

While James may have had Jewish Christians in mind, it does not strictly restrict the audience to Israelites but his teachings are relevant to all believers. The diaspora may be designated to be the Jewish Christians living outside Palestine but also could include Christians living on this earth not yet been called to their heavenly “home”. This letter would then be addressed to believers who have been scattered due to persecution.

## **Overview**

The letter of James is distinctively Jewish in character, addressing believers in the Jewish context who have been exiled from their homeland, facing persecution and many living in poverty. It is written as a pastoral exhortation, urging and encouraging believers to demonstrate their convictions in faith through action. He provides practical instruction through metaphors and illustrations and alludes to Jesus’ teachings. Old Testament references are also found to permeate throughout the letter.

While Christians face trials and tribulations, James uses his letter to instruct believers to stay faithful amidst temptations to spiritually drift and allow worldly values to infiltrate the community of believers. James repeatedly reminds believers that living holy and set apart lives is pleasing to the Lord and that faith without works does not reflect true Christian beliefs.

### **Key Themes**

Staying steadfast in the midst of suffering and trials

Wisdom from God

Faith without deeds is dead

### **Genre**

James is a literary letter directed towards a wide audience. It is written in a style similar to Old Testament wisdom literature like Proverbs, where wisdom sayings and practical instructions are found throughout the letter.

### **Theme Verse**

1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

# SESSION 1

James 1:1-18 (ESV)

**1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:  
Greetings.

**2** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**5** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. **6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. **7** For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**9** Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10** and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 1:1-18 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. Who does James introduce himself as? Who is the letter addressed to? What do you think is the significance of these greetings?
2. Why would James teach believers to consider it a joy when they face trials?
3. How is wisdom portrayed? What is the relationship between wisdom, faith and doubt?
4. What is the description between the rich and the poor in 1:9-11? Why do you think this is so?



# SESSION 2

James 1:19-2:13 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> 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.

**2** My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2** For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3** and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," **4** have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? **7** Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

**8** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. **9** But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. **11** For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.



# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. How does James instruct the believers to conduct themselves? What issues do you think he was addressing?
2. Why is it important to be doers of the word and not hearers only? How do our actions reflect our beliefs?
3. What is described as pure and undefiled religion? What is its significance?



# SESSION 3

James 2:14-26 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 2:14-26 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. What do we learn about faith in this passage? What is the relationship between faith and works?
2. How can one have faith without works? What does this have to do with salvation?
3. Why would verse 19 strengthen his point about works?
4. What are the examples of faith with works given? Why are they significant?



# SESSION 4

James 3:1-18 (ESV)

**3** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **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, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. **7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. 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.

**13** Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. **15** This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. **17** But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 3:1-18 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. Which part of us do you think requires the most self-control in our conduct?
2. List the illustrations and metaphors James gives in this passage. What is he teaching through them?
3. What is the function of the tongue? Why do you think it is given such large significance?
4. What is said about wisdom in 3:13-18? Why is wisdom encouraged following the dangers of an unbridled tongue?

# Group Discussion

5. How does wisdom contrast bitter jealousy and selfish ambition?
6. What would it look like to be wise and understanding? What difference would it make to our walks of faith?

# SESSION 5

James 4:1-12 (ESV)

**4** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” **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. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**11** Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 4:1-12 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. What causes quarrels and fights among people? What's the result of human conflict?
2. How do you differentiate between good or bad desires (v.3)?
3. Why is friendship with the world enmity with God (v.4)?



# SESSION 6

## James 4:13-5:11 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

**5** Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. <sup>2</sup> Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup> Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. <sup>5</sup> You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 4:13-5:11 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. What kind of people do you think are found in 4:13-17? Have you encountered these people?
2. What does James teach believers about thinking of the future? What do you think about planning your future?
3. How would you describe the people addressed in 5:1-6? What would those people look like now?
4. Why does James give the exhortation found in 5:7-9?



# SESSION 7

James 5:12-20 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> 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.

# Personal Reflection Questions

Read James 5:12-20 and record your observations.

1. What is God showing you about Himself?
2. What is God showing you about yourself and others?
3. What questions or challenges do you have about this passage?
4. What truth is God challenging you to understand and hold onto? What might He be calling you to do?

# Sermon Notes

# Group Discussion

1. What does it mean when James says, “Do not swear”? (v.12)? Why?
2. What are the different circumstances and the advice for the course of action found in 5:13-18?
3. What is the connection between confession and forgiveness?
4. What truths do we need to remember when afflicted in trials?



# Resources

Reese, Ruth Anne. *James*. Cascade Books, 2024.

Adamson, James B. *Commentary on the Epistle of James (NICNT)*. Grand Rapids, Mich: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 1976.

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Yuki He

*thank  
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**TORONTO  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

100 Acadia Avenue  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 5A2

(905) 477 - 7533  
[www.tccc.ca/en](http://www.tccc.ca/en)