

# HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

THE LETTER OF JAMES



## Chapter 1

**Discussion Overview:** The two main ideas that James chapter 1 talks about is having the right attitude in trials (v. 1-18) and then having the right attitude towards God's Word. (v. 1-27) This chapter gives a clear understanding of what trials are, why they exist, and also offers direction about when they become temptations. It also tells us that we should receive God's Word, obey it, and then apply it, which is exactly what we are trying to do with this inductive study of the book of James. This book is very applicable to any Christ follower, new or mature, as we all face trials, we all face moments of doubt, and we all struggle to surrender to God's Word. I pray this study encourages you and gives you strength and determination to live out your faith more boldly. As we practice the method of OIA, observation, interpretation, and application, make sure to discuss each section. Listen to what students come up with and help redirect their interpretation if it is off. It is easy to want to jump right to interpretation or application in the observation section so make sure to help students pause and make some basic observations about the text before diving into the rest.

### Key Scripture James 1

#### Observations:

- Answer the 5 W's: who, what, why, when, where
- What words are repeated?
- What themes are brought up in Chapter 1?
- Are there any lists?
- Cause and effect phrases?
- Notable geographical locations?
- Are there words that contrast one thing against another?
- Encourage students to make at least 20 observations
  - Examples: James labels himself as a bondservant in verse 1.

\*Discuss your observations

#### Interpretation: What does this mean?

**Pro Tip: Use the acronym TIGHT to help generate good questions:** questions that are **text** dependent, **interesting**, promote **good** discussion, **highlight** the tension, and **tie** observations together

- What did the author intend to communicate to the original audience?
- What is the significance of \_\_\_\_\_?
- What is the tension in this text? What is bothering you?

\*Discuss the interpretation of the text

#### Application: What does this passage mean to me?

- Is there a central truth I need to put into practice?
- Is there a promise, command, or example to follow or to avoid?
- How do I respond to what this chapter is saying?
- What are the next steps I need to take in order to apply this to my life?

\*Discuss the application