

# Encounter Service

June 10, 2008

## Step One :: Bible Reading :: 20 minutes

Read the book of James

### Chapter 1

- Why do you think James says the poor are “honored” and the rich are “humbled”? What does that have to do with trials (the main idea of the section)?
- James says, “Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires.” What are some regular temptations you face and what do you think that says about you?
- Based on verses 22-25 and your current relationship with God, evaluate what you’ve been “looking at.”
- What, according to James, is “pure and lasting religion”? How do you stack up to this standard?

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### Chapter 2

- How have you judged others? How, in turn, do you think you will be judged? Think about how these relate.
- Think about your faith and think about your deeds. Is there balance? Are both present in your life? Do you err on one side or the other?
- What influence has your faith had on your actions? What does your answer to this say about your relationship with God?

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### Chapter 3

- How well do you control your tongue?
- What comes out of your mouth: more “praising” or “cursing”?
- Look at the characteristics of wisdom in James 3:17. How do you stack up?

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### Chapter 4

- James has some pretty strong words for those who seek friendship with the world. On scale from 1 to 10, rate your friendship with the world. Are you happy with the number?
- Take a few minutes and follow James’ instruction in 4:7-9.
- James 4:13-16 - Do you live for yourself or do you submit your will/plans/dreams/hopes to God?

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### Chapter 5

- Why are the rich warned? What did (or rather what didn’t) they do?
- What are some “sufferings” that you are experiencing and need to endure and trust God to see you through?
- When we quote James 5:16, we usually talk about physical healing. But he says “confess your sins”. What does confession have to do with our spiritual healing (after all, the letter is addressing all sorts of spiritual sickness).

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## Step Two :: Individual Prayer :: 5 minutes

## Step Three :: Confession :: 10 minutes

## Step Four :: Worship :: 15 minutes

## Step Five :: Devotional Thoughts :: 5 minutes

## Step Six :: Response :: 5 minutes

## Step Seven :: Leader Prayer :: 5 minutes