

## James choral reading

CHARACTERS: A, B, VOG (Voice of God), All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes/page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: James (HCSB)

J: Greetings from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ:

ALL: To the 12 tribes in the Dispersion.

## Trials and Maturity (chapter 1)

J: Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials,  
ALL knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

B: But endurance must do its complete work,

ALL: so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

J: Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God,

ALL: who gives to all generously and without criticizing,

J: and it will be given to him.

B: But let him ask in faith without doubting.

ALL: For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

B: That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

ALL: An indecisive man is unstable in all his ways.

J: The brother of humble circumstances should boast in his exaltation,

ALL: but the one who is rich should boast in his humiliation

J: because he will pass away like a flower of the field.

ALL: For the sun rises with its scorching heat and dries up the grass;

J: its flower falls off, and its beautiful appearance is destroyed.

ALL: In the same way, the rich man will wither away while pursuing his activities.

B: A man who endures trials is blessed,

ALL: because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life

B: that God has promised to those who love Him.

J: No one undergoing a trial should say,

B: (*with obvious voice change*) I am being tempted by God.

J: For God is not tempted by evil

ALL: and He Himself doesn't tempt anyone.

B: Each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires.

ALL: Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin,

J: and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

B: Don't be deceived, my dearly loved brothers.

ALL Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above,

B: coming down from the Father of lights;

ALL: with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning.

J: By His own choice, He gave us a new birth by the message of truth

ALL: so that we would be the firstfruits of His creatures.

### Hearing and Doing the Word (chapter 1)

J: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger,

ALL: for man's anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.

B: Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and evil,

ALL: humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save you.

J: But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

ALL: Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer,

B: he is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror.

ALL: For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

J: But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom

ALL: who perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but one who does good works—

J: this person will be blessed in what he does.

B: If anyone thinks he is religious without controlling his tongue,

ALL: then his religion is useless and he deceives himself.

J: Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this:

ALL: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

### The Sin of Favoritism (chapter 2)

J: My brothers, do not show favoritism.

B: For example, a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes,

J: and a poor man dressed in dirty clothes also comes in.

B: If you look with favor on the man wearing the fine clothes and say,

J: (*obviously changing voice to overly cordial*) Sit here in a good place,

B: and yet you say to the poor man,

J: (*gruff voice*) Stand over there

B: or

J: (*haughty*) sit here on the floor by my footstool.

ALL: haven't you discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

ALL: Listen, my dear brothers:

J: Didn't God choose the poor in this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that He has promised to those who love Him?

B: Yet you dishonored that poor man.

J: Don't the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?

ALL: Don't they blaspheme the noble name that was pronounced over you at your baptism?

B: Indeed, if you keep the royal law prescribed in the Scripture,

ALL: Love your neighbor as yourself,

B: you are doing well.

J: But if you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

ALL: For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all.

B: For He who said,

VOG: Do not commit adultery,

B: also said,

VOG: Do not murder.

ALL: So if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you are a lawbreaker.

J: Speak and act as those who will be judged by the law of freedom.

B: For judgment is without mercy to the one who hasn't shown mercy.

ALL: Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### Faith and Works (chapter 2)

J: What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?

ALL: Can his faith save him?

B: If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food and one of you says to them,

J: (*Changing voice to flippant*) Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well.

B: but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it?

ALL: In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself.

B: But someone will say,

J: (*defensively*) You have faith, and I have works.

ALL: Show us your faith without works, and we will show you faith from our works,

B: You believe that God is one; you do well.

ALL: The demons also believe—and they shudder.

J: Foolish man! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?

ALL: Wasn't Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

B: You see that faith was active together with his works,

ALL: and by works, faith was perfected.

J: So the Scripture was fulfilled that says,

ALL: Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, (*pause, more reverently*) and he was called God's friend.

B: You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

ALL: And in the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by a different route?

J: For just as the body without the spirit is dead,

ALL: so also faith without works is dead.

### Controlling the Tongue (chapter 3 & 5)

A: If anyone does not stumble in what he says,

ALL: he is a mature man who is also able to control his whole body.

B: We put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us

ALL: that way, we guide the whole animal.

A: And consider ships:

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B: Though very large and driven by fierce winds,

ALL: they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

A: The tongue is a small part of the body,

ALL: but it boasts great things.

B: Consider how large a forest a small fire ignites.

ALL: And the tongue is a fire.

A: The tongue, a world of unrighteousness, is placed among the parts of our bodies.

B: It pollutes the whole body,

ALL: sets the course of life on fire, and is set on fire by hell.

A: Every sea creature, reptile, bird, or animal is tamed and has been tamed by man,

ALL: but no man can tame the tongue.

B: It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

ALL: We praise our Lord and Father with it,

A: and we curse men who are made in God's likeness with it.

ALL: Praising and cursing come out of the same mouth.

B: My brothers, these things should not be this way.

ALL: Does a spring pour out sweet and bitter water from the same opening?

A: Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs?

ALL: Neither can saltwater spring yield fresh water.

B: Now above all, my brothers, do not swear,

ALL: either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath.

A: Your "yes" must be "yes,"

B: and your "no" must be "no,"

ALL: so that you won't fall under judgment.

#### The Wisdom from Above

A: Who is wise and has understanding among you?

ALL: He should show his works by good conduct with wisdom's gentleness.

B: But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart,

ALL: don't brag and deny the truth.

A: Such wisdom does not come from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

ALL: For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil.

B: But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving,

ALL: gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits,

B: without favoritism and hypocrisy.

ALL: And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.

#### Humility (chapter 4)

A: What is the source of wars and fights among you?

ALL: Don't they come from the cravings that are at war within you?

B: You desire and do not have.

ALL: You murder and covet and cannot obtain.

A: You fight and war.

ALL: You do not have because you do not ask.

B: You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives,

ALL: so that you may spend it on your evil desires.

A: Friendship with the world means hostility toward God.

ALL: So whoever wants to be the world's friend becomes God's enemy.

B: God resists the proud,

ALL: but gives grace to the humble.

A: Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil,

ALL: and he will flee from you.

B: Draw near to God,

ALL: and He will draw near to you.

A: Cleanse your hands, sinners, a

B: and purify your hearts, double-minded people!

ALL: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.

### Judges and planners

A: Don't criticize one another, brothers.

ALL: There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy.

B: Who are you to judge your neighbor?

A: Come now, you who say,

B: (*in different voice*) Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit.

A: You don't even know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be!

ALL: For you are like smoke that appears for a little while, then vanishes.

A: Instead, you should say,

B: (*different voice*) If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.

ALL: But as it is, you boast in your arrogance.

A: All such boasting is evil.

ALL: So it is a sin for the person who knows to do what is good and doesn't do it.

### Warning to the Rich (chapter 5)

A: You rich people, weep and wail over the miseries that are coming on you.

ALL: Your wealth is ruined and your clothes are moth-eaten.

B: Your silver and gold are corroded,

ALL: and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire.

A: You stored up treasure in the last days!

ALL: Look! The pay that you withheld from the workers who reaped your fields cries out,

B: and the outcry of the harvesters has reached the ears of the Lord of Hosts

ALL: You have lived luxuriously on the land and have indulged yourselves.

### Waiting for the Lord

B: Be patient until the Lord's coming.

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ALL: See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth

A: and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

ALL: You also must be patient.

B: Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

A: Brothers, do not complain about one another, so that you will not be judged.

ALL: Look, the judge stands at the door!

B: Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the Lord's name as an example of suffering and patience.

ALL: See, we count as blessed those who have endured.

A: You have heard of Job's endurance and have seen the outcome from the Lord.

ALL: The Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

### Effective Prayer

A: Is anyone among you suffering?

ALL: He should pray.

B: Is anyone cheerful?

ALL: He should sing praises.

A: Is anyone among you sick?

B: He should call for the elders of the church,

ALL: and they should pray over him

B: The prayer of faith will save the sick person,

ALL: and the Lord will restore him to health;

A: if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

B: Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another,

ALL: so that you may be healed.

A: The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

B: Elijah was a man with a nature like ours;

ALL: yet he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the land. A: Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the land produced its fruit.

ALL: My brothers, if any among you strays from the truth, and someone turns him back,

B: let him know that whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his life from death

ALL: and cover a multitude of sins.

### Games from James

James 1 - 5 Rags to Riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/366399.html>

James Vocabulary (Chapters 1 & 2)

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1437381.html>

James 3 and 4 Battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/199577.html>

James for Kids

<http://www.quia.com/ba/204419.html>

James Save the Bear

<http://www.quia.com/hm/435347.html>

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