

Skits from James

CHARACTERS: varies by skit

PROPS: see individual skits. Judge's robe, mirror, flashlights or other lights, etc.

SETTING: Bare stage.

RUN TIME: 1-3 minutes per skit

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: James 1-5. Additional scriptures listed per skit. Translations used include NIV, HCSB, and The Message

Faith Under Pressure James 1:2-8, Luke 21:1-3, Mark 9:24

At rise: A is pacing, obviously agitated and worried. B and C enter. (OPTIONAL) JAMES is seated at a desk or table, writing a letter.

JAMES: I, James, am a slave of God and the Master Jesus, writing to the twelve tribes scattered to Kingdom Come: Hello!

C: Got your text.

B: How can we help?

A: *(anxious, discouraged, a bit melodramatic)* Woe is me. Everything has gone wrong that could possibly go wrong! *(lists 4 things)*

B: Consider it a sheer gift, friend, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides.

A: *(incredulous)* A gift!???

C: You know that under pressure, your faith shows its true colors.

B: The world watches to see how we Christians react to hard times.

A: Maybe so but I wish it were all over and everything was back to normal

B: Don't try to get out of anything prematurely.

C: Let this test do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

A: But I have no idea what to do about *(lists the 4 things again)*

B: If you don't know what to do pray to the Father.

C: He loves to help.

A: Really?

B: Really. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it.

C: Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought.

A: What if God ignores me?

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B: People who “worry their prayers” are like wind-whipped waves.

C: Don’t think you’re going to get anything from the Master that way,

B: Like a ship adrift at sea,

C: You know, keeping all your options open.

B: You have to believe like that widow who gave everything she had to live on.

A: I remember hearing about her.

C: Remember the man who asked Jesus to cast the demon out of his son?

A: Yes. Jesus said all things are possible IF you believe.

B: Then that guy asked Jesus to help his unbelief.

C: And the demon came out.

A: True. Maybe you guys could pray with me.

B: Sure thing. *(All bow heads)* Heavenly father, help our friend with *(list one problem)*

A: And with *(list second problem)*

C: Also *(list third and fourth)*.

A: Help me overcome my unbelief.

B: Let how *(insert A’s name)* handles these trials and challenges with your help be a faith witness to others.

ALL: *(in unison)* In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Faith under pressure, part 2 James 1:12-15

B: Hey, how’s it going with *(list one of the problems)*

A: It is tough. I thought the challenges would be over and done by now.

C: Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate.

A: *(incredulous and confused)* Fortunate? You got to be kidding.

C: It shows you are a person loyal to God no matter what.

A: I think God is trying to trip me up.

B: No way. God is impervious to evil, unaffected by it

C: Like those yellow raincoats are impervious to rain. It slides right off.

B: God puts evil in no one’s way.

A: Then where does the temptation to give in to evil come from?

C: Us and only us.

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B: The desire to sin is smoldering like a hot coal in all of us.

C: If we allow it to flare-up, it catches us on fire with evil.

B: Or think of it this way. Evil desire gest pregnant, and has a baby named sin!

C: Sin grows up and gives birth to death – you know- the Grim reaper.

A: Ugh! That’s a gruesome family tree.

B: Yes. Nip it in the bud.

C: Don’t give up. Persevere.

B: Hang in there and you’ll have eternal life.

OPTIONAL: James 1:16-18

JAMES (*writing*) So, my very dear friends, don’t get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. (*From off stage shine lights back and forth on JAMES’ corner of the stage*) The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

Act on What You Hear James 1:19-25, Galatians 5: 22-23 and John 15

Props: Posters, marker, piece of paper, mirror

At rise: B is hanging a poster of two ears on the engine of a train pulling a tongue and a caboose sporting n angry guy)

A: What does that mean?

B: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear.

A: Is that the verse in James that says to be quick to listen and slow to speak or get angry? (*C enters and hangs up poster of a tree bearing the nine fruits of the spirit next to an ugly, dying tree bearing a rotten fruit labeled “anger. C then draws the circle with a slash symbol that means “no” over the ugly fruit.*)

B: Yup. God’s righteousness doesn’t grow from human anger.

C: So throw all spoiled stuff and cancerous evil in the garbage.

A: Trash the anger. (*wads up a paper and shoots a basket into a trash can*)

B: Amen. God is a gardener.

C: He prunes the bad stuff off of Christians

A: Prunes are a bad news fruit.

C: Not that kind of prune. That’s a noun.

B: The verb prune means to cut off dead or dying or sucker branches so a tree, vine or even a tomato plant bears more and bigger fruits.

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A: I'm not so sure I want anything cut off of me.

C: What if it was a wart or a skin cancer.

A: (*getting it and agreeing*) That would have to go.

B: Let God be your gardener, landscaping your life with the Word.

A: What word? Do you mean listening to the Bible?

C: Sure but don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but.

A: Like letting the Word go in one ear and out the other.

B: True dat. Act on what you hear!

C: (*Pulling little mirror from pocket and looking into it while fixing hair with other hand*) Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, (*puts mirror away*) and two minutes later have no idea what they look like.

B: Read and listen to the Bible to catch a glimpse of God revealed and the free life he offers!

A: Even if it's out of the corner of my eye?

C: Even out of the corner of your eye.

B: Sticks with it. Don't be a distracted scatterbrain.

C: Be a man or woman of action.

A: Gotcha.

True religion James 1:26-27

BOASTER: Look at me. I am uber religious! I go to 6 different churches, a mosque, and a synagogue and have a Buddha statue in my backyard.

B: You talk a good game but maybe you are self-deceived.

BOASTER: Nope. Not me. I do religious yoga and practice meditation.

B: That kind of religion is hot air and only hot air.

C: Real religion, the kind that is approved by God the Father, is much different.

BOASTER: What do you mean?

C: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their situations.

BOASTER: (*with the distain and revulsion holding a dirty diaper might conjure*) Like helping poor widows or snot nosed orphans?

C: Yup.

B: And guard against corruption from the godless world.

BOASTER looks unconvinced

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The Royal Rule of Love James 2: 1-13, Isaiah 64:6

At rise: People are gathered to worship when RICH and POOR enter. A, B, and C rush to greet RICH, nearly trampling POOR, then pushing POOR aside, back and forth like a ping pong ball)

A: Welcome! Welcome!

B: *(to RICH)* Sweet suit. *(aside)* must have cost more than I make in a month.

C: Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!

A: Eww *(aside, indicating POOR)* Those rags of his just touched me. I better not get lice or kooties.

B: *(to POOR with hardly a glance)* Better sit in the back row.

A: Or maybe on the floor, way, way in the back.

ANGEL: How dare you segregate God's children! God operates quite differently.

ANGEL 2: He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges.

ANGEL: This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God.

A: Even raggedy people with Lice?

ANGEL 2: Even raggedy people with lice.

ANGEL: I guess you forgot Isaiah 64:6

A: What's that say?

ANGEL: All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

ANGEL 2: And here you are, in your raggedy "righteousness" abusing these same citizens!

B: *(catching on)* Oh yeah. Come to think of it, isn't it the high and mighty who exploit us?

C: True dat. They use the courts to rob us blind.

B: They even scorn the new name—"Christian"—and baptism.

ANGEL: You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself."

ANGEL 2: But if you play up to these so-called important people *(indicating RICH)*, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it.

A: *(convicted and humbled)* I guess we shouldn't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others.

ANGEL: Right. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder."

C: So even if I don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, my non-adultery won't cancel out my murder?

ANGEL 2: Correct; you're a murderer, period.

RICH: *(sneering)* A lawbreaker.

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POOR: Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free.

ANGEL: For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly.

POOR: Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

Faith in Action James 2:14-26, I Thessalonians 1:3, Galatians 5:6,

Props: Jacket, coat, gloves, two drinks in cups, Judge's robe, gavel

At rise: A, carrying an extra coat and cup of something to drink crosses to meet B, passing an old friend C who is center stage; shivering, dressed in rags and half-starved..

JAMES: *(writing)* Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this life and the next if you learn all the right words but never do anything? *(Looks to from writing, to audience)* Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it?

A: *(cheerfully to C who is shivering)* Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit and good food. *(walks over to join B, who is crossing to center stage. A and B meet close to C. James stops writing and joins them.)*

C: *(To audience)* Some friend! He left me without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup.

JAMES: *(to A)* Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense. *(gives C his jacket and some money. C puts jacket on)*

A: Sounds good. *(pats JAMES on the shoulder)* You take care of the work department, I'll handle the faith department.

B: Not so fast. You can no more show me your faith apart from your works. than I can show you my faith apart from my works. *(B hands C a drink. C cups it like it is warm)*

JAMES: Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove. *(JAMES hands C a pairs of gloves and holds his drink while he dons them)*

B: *(to A)* Do I hear you say you believe in the one and only God?

A: Of course I believe in God!

C: Demons believe in God but what good does it do them?

B We just observed you complacently doing nothing.

A: *(a bit defensively)* So?

JAMES: Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

A: *(starting to get it)* Maaaaaybe they can't be separated. *(changing back)* But maybe they can.

B: *(putting on judges robe and taking seat)* Of course not. *(indicating audience)* Jury, you must weigh the evidence and render a verdict. *(Bangs gavel)* People's Court is now in session.

JAMES: Your honor, I call my first witness – Abraham. (*C becomes Abraham, takes place in witness box and raises right hand*)

ABE: I swear by the great I Am to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

JAMES: Abe, tell us how you were made right with God by works.

ABE: God said to offer my son to him so I placed my Isaac on the sacrificial altar.

B: (*to “courtroom” and audience*) Isn't it obvious that faith and works are partners, that faith expresses itself in works?

C: Like paint and a canvas. Paint in the paint box does nothing for the canvas.

A: But Scripture clearly states “Abraham BELIEVED God and was set right with God”.

B: But that includes his actions. Abe, why were you named God's friend?

ABE: It's that mesh of believing and acting working together.

B: (*to courtroom and audience*) Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works? Give me a thumbs up if you agree (*look out into audience, smile and nod at the thumbs up. ABE steps down from the witness box*)

A: That's just one incident

B: I call Rahab, the Jericho harlot. (*B becomes RAHAB and takes place in witness box*)

RAHAB: I swear by the God who parted the Red Sea and downed the walls of Jericho to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

B: What did believing God had such power and such love for the Israelites cause you to do?

RAHAB: I went into action; hiding God's spies and helping them escape.

B: Wasn't that seamless unity of believing and doing what counted with God?

RAHAB: Yes it was. God adopted me into his family. I became an ancestor of both King David and Jesus.

B: The very moment you separate body and spirit, you end up with a corpse.

RAHAB: Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse.

A: Okay! Okay! I get it. (*Takes off coat and gives it to C, then reaches into wallet and hands C some money*) Get some food. Come by tomorrow and I'll help you find work.

JAMES: God and Father will remember your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (*to audience*) What counts is faith expressing itself through love. (*bangs gavel*) Court dismissed. Go find a way to show your faith by your works.

When You Open Your Mouth James 3:1-12

Props: pictures (or screen shots as noted), whiteboard or chalkboard, three hole punch and fan.

At rise: JAMES writing his letter, looks up, thinks, then writes)

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JAMES: Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work and teachers are held to the strictest standards. *A (TEACHER) enters pushing a whiteboard or chalk board. CLASS follows and takes seats. One student has carried in and set fan if needed. Fan can be a hand operated one or plug in variety.*

A: *(aside to audience)* And none of us is perfectly qualified. But if I stick to what the Bible teaches, I should get it right. *(to class)* If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life. Let's look at some analogies. *(puts picture of horse with bridle on board OR have graphic projected. Do this for all analogies)* What is this?

B: *(raising hand)* A horse's bit.

A: Right. And what does a bit do?

C: *(raising hand)* A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse.

A: What is this? *(picture of boat with rudder and points to STUDENT to answer)*

STUDENT: A ship with a rudder.

A: What does a rudder do?

STUDENT: Steers the boat. Even a huge ship that has a small rudder in the hands of a skilled captain sets a straight course in the face of the strongest winds.

A: Correct! A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it! *(Photo of forest fire)* How does this happen?

B: It only takes a spark to set off a forest fire.

A: How does that relate to our speech? *(point to C)*

C: A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

STUDENT: By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a good reputation.

A: *Turning on fan, opening three hole punch so all the holes blow all over. The more the better)*

A: *(picture of tiger)* You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. *(new picture of crazed cartoon killer)* The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. What's up with that?

B: Curses and blessings should not come out of the same mouth!

A: Right. Class, please retrieve the holes *(holds up hole punch, pause while students try. After a bit, students return, ad libbing that they can't find them all)*

A: So it is with careless words. Once they are out of your mouth, it is hard, even impossible, to take them all back. *(picture of waterfall)* A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it?

CLASS: *(in unison)* No!

A: Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they?

CLASS: (*in unison*) No!

A: Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they?

CLASS: (*in unison*) No!

A: You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

CLASS: (*in unison*) No!

Live Well, Live Wisely James 3:13-18

At rise: Press conference with SOLOMON being interviewed by reporters.

A: Solomon, God granted you an amazing amount of wisdom. What should people do in order to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom?

SOLOMON: Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.

B: Can you give us some non-examples of wisdom?

SOLOMON: Sure. Mean-spirited ambition isn't wisdom. Boasting that you are wise isn't wisdom.

A: How about twisting the truth to make yourself sound wise?

SOLOMON: That's the furthest thing from wisdom—it's animal cunning, devilish conniving.

B: I've noticed that whenever I'm trying to look better than others or get the better of others, things fall apart and everyone ends up at the others' throats.

SOLOMON: Exactly. Real wisdom, God's wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others.

B: Would you say it is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessing?

SOLOMON: Absolutely. Godly wisdom is not hot one day and cold the next; it's not two-faced.

A: How do you develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results?

SOLOMON: You can do that only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.

Get Serious and get along James 4:1-12, 1 Kings 17

At rise: Continuation of press conference. SOLOMON wears a crown

A: Where do all these wars and quarrels come from?

B: Don't they just happen?

SOLOMON: Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves.

B: Are you talking about everyday life or just big international conflict?

SOLOMON: They both have the same roots. You crave what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it.

A: Can you give us an example?

SOLOMON: King Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard so he could have a vegetable garden next to his palace.

B: Did Ahab make him an offer he couldn't refuse?

SOLOMON: No. Naboth refused his offer. It was his family land, willed from father to son.

A: So how did Ahab end up with the plot of land he wanted?

(Optional: As SOLOMON describes the scene have additional actors pantomime the action)

SOLOMON: Queen Jezebel wrote letters over Ahab's signature, stamped them with his official seal, and ordered spineless men who would not stand up to her to claim Naboth had blasphemed God and the king.! Then she had them stone Naboth to death.

A: That's awful. I can see why Ahab didn't ask God to give him the vineyard.

B: Me too. He would be asking for what he had no right to.

A: Rather like a spoiled child wanting his own way.

SOLOMON: True. You're cheating on God if all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get. You'll end up enemies of God and his way. I know that for a fact.

A: How?

SOLOMON: All my foreign, demon worshipping wives led my heart astray. I became an enemy of God trying to please them.

B: There's a proverb that says God's a fiercely jealous lover.

SOLOMON: And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find; I should know. I had 700 wives *(aside to audience)* way too many. I thought I was smart making many alliances and that I'd be loved and adored by all of them.

B: *(sadly)* But instead, they were your downfall.

SOLOMON: Right. As wise as I was, I made foolish, willful choices and lost everything

A: Like the saying "God goes against the willful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble."

SOLOMON: So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him run off.

B: That's exactly what happened when Satan tempted Jesus.

A: True. Jesus refused him, quoted scripture and the devil left him.

SOLOMON: Say a quiet yes to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life.

A: I guess sometimes you have to quit playing the field.

B: Or you have to hit bottom, and cry your eyes out, like Jonah did in the belly of the great fish.

SOLOMON: Correct. The fun and games are over. Get serious, really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

A: How should we treat others?

SOLOMON: Don't bad-mouth each other, friends. It's God's Word, his Message, his Royal Rule, that takes a beating in that kind of talk.

B: We are supposed to be honoring the Message, not writing graffiti all over it.

SOLOMON: Right. God is in charge of deciding human destiny. Who do you think you are to meddle in the destiny of others?

Nothing but a Wisp of Fog James 4:13-17, Luke 12:16-19, Proverbs 22:8, 9, 16

BRAGGART: (*brashly announcing*) Today—at the latest, tomorrow—I'm off to such and such a city (*optional insert local place*) for the year. (*rubbing hands together gleefully*) I'll start a business and make a lot of money.

SOLOMON: (*aside to audience*) Silly man. He doesn't know the first thing about tomorrow. Check out this parable by Jesus.

BRAGGART: I'm so rich. My farm produced a terrific crop. (*pausing to ponder*) What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.

ANGEL: You could give some away to the poor.

DEVIL: (*shoving angel out of the way*) Dumb idea. Tear down your barns and build bigger ones.

BRAGGART: Great idea! Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!

ANGEL: (*Picking self up from being shoved but is still ignored by everyone*) Fool! Tonight you'll die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it? (*to audience*) That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.

SOLOMON: You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.

B: What should we make it a habit to say?

ANGEL: If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that.

SOLOMON: Don't be full of your grandiose selves, like I was. All such self-importance is evil.

ANGEL: In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

BRAGGART: (*getting somewhat concerned*) What do you mean?

B: Such as when you have extra, giving it away instead of keeping it for yourself.

SOLOMON: Whoever sows injustice reaps *calamity* (*BRAGGART starts looking convinced, slowly nodding*)

DEVIL: (*inserting self between BRAGGART and others, putting his arm around BRAGGART*) Ignore them. You planted grain, not injustice. (*BRAGGART focuses on devil and nods*)

B: Generous hands are blessed hands because they give bread to the poor.

SOLOMON and ANGEL: *(in unison)* Right!

Rich and poor at Judgment Day James 1:9-11, 5: 1-6; Romans 2:5-8

Props: Judge's robe, wallet,

At rise: *Folks are standing in line before the throne of judgment. JUDGE has just finished with C, who is walking away to stage left, crying bitterly. JUDGE pantomimes calling up A while SOLOMON and ANGEL talk to RICH who is behind A in line. B is behind RICH.*

SOLOMON: A final word to you arrogant rich. Take some lessons in lament. *(points to C)*

ANGEL: You'll need buckets for the tears when the crash comes upon you.

B: Your money is corrupt and *(holding nose)* your fine clothes stink. *(RICH panics, pulls out wallet, opens it and is shocked to find nothing but dirt falling out when he turns it upside down and shakes it)*

SOLOMON: Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within. *(RICH grabs stomach like it pains)*

JUDGE: *(to A)* Despite the fact you were dirt poor, you persisted in doing good. You pursued glory, honor and immortality. You will reap glory, honor and peace. *(ALL but RICH cheer. RICH is too busy checking pockets for money. Your entry into heaven was paid in full because you accepted the payment made by Jesus. Welcome. (ALL but RICH cheer again. A shakes hands with JUDGE and with big smile steps to stage right so RICH can move to judgment spot) Next!*

JUDGE: Next! *(opening book to a new page)* Unlike that one *(pointing to C)*, you were self-seeking, avoided God and added fuel to the fire so it blazes hot and high.

RICH: What fire?

JUDGE: God's fiery and righteous judgment. Make no mistake: In the end you get what's coming to you—Real Life for those who work on God's side *(points to C)*, but to those who insist on getting their own way, Fire! You thought you were piling up wealth. What you've piled up is judgment.

RICH: How?

JUDGE: Mr. Rich, I see here you cheated your workers out of their wages. All the workers you've exploited and cheated cry out for judgment.

ALL: Jugd-ment, Jugd-ment!

JUDGE: *(bangs gavel for quiet)* The groans of the workers you used and abused are a roar in the ears of the Master Avenger.

RICH: *(visibly shaken and with frightened voice)* I'll make it up to them. I'll pay them double.

JUDGE: Too late for that. Besides, you lived it up while looting the earth.

RICH: I promise to reduce, reuse and recycle in the future. *(JUDGE shakes his head "no" so RICH, wincing at the thought of losing money but going ahead)* I'll pay for cleanup of all the places on earth I trashed.

JUDGE: Too late for that. Your money has rotted away. In fact, all you have to show for your pitiful life is a fatter than usual corpse.

RICH: I'll go on a diet.

JUDGE: Too late. Your selfish actions have condemned and murdered perfectly good persons.

ANGEL: Prosperity is as short-lived as a wildflower, so don't ever count on it.

SOLOMON: You should have taken a lesson from the wildflowers.

ANGEL: As soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers.

B: Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem.

SOLOMON: That's a picture of the "prosperous life." At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing.

JUDGE bangs gavel and RICH trudges defeated to cry and join C

Final instructions James 5

At rise: Crowd standing around courtroom; JUDGE is pantomiming checking FARMER's paperwork.

JAMES: Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's arrival, like a farmer waits for the harvest.

FARMER: Everything is planted. Now all I need to do is wait for my valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work

JAMES: Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.

A: *(grouchy, picking a fight)* I wish he'd hurry up and come *(To B)* because you are getting on my nerves.

B: I'm getting on your nerves? You are jumping up and down on mine. *(Start to get into each other's faces but JAMES separates them)*

JAMES: Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner. *(JUDGE bangs gavel and A and B back off)*

JAMES: Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God.

A: *(challenging)* Like who?

JONAH: Like me, Jonah. I had to go preach to my worst enemies, *(with disdain)* the Assyrians.

A: Weren't you swallowed by a whale?

JONAH: Actually, it was a great fish, but yes, I did spend some time there until I stopped running away from what God wanted me to do.

EZEKIEL: Take me, Ezekiel for an example. I had to lay on my right side, tied up with ropes to preach for over a year.

A: A whole year! Why? Wasn't that uncomfortable?

EZEKIEL: Yes, it was miserable but I served as my own visual aid to go with my sermon.

NOAH: Speaking of sermons, I, Noah, preached for 100 years as I built the ark.

A: That's an even longer time. You had a lot of patience.

NOAH: Especially since no one but the seven people in my family wound up saved from the flood.

JAMES: What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power?

A: Yes, I have. God brought it all together for him at the end.

JAMES: That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail.

NOAH: And since you know that he cares, let your language show it.

JONAH: Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God.

EZEKIEL: Just say yes or no; just what is true.

JUDGE: The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. That way, your language can't be used against you.

A: But sometimes I'm hurting.

JONAH: Pray. If God could hear and answer my prayer from the belly of a huge fish, he can hear and answer yours.

A: Sometimes I feel great.

EZEKIEL: Sing, even if you do it off key because God loves even a joyful noise.

JOB: If you get sick, call the church elders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master.

JAMES: Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. I saw him do it time and time again.

JONAH: And if you've sinned, like I did, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

NOAH: Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed, not caught up and drowned in a flood of unforgiven sin.

JAMES: The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful and a force to be reckoned with.

EZEKIEL: Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years.

FARMER: Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

Last lines are delivered to the audience

JAMES: My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off.

JONAH: Go after them. Even if they are your enemies.

NOAH: Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

Interactive review games

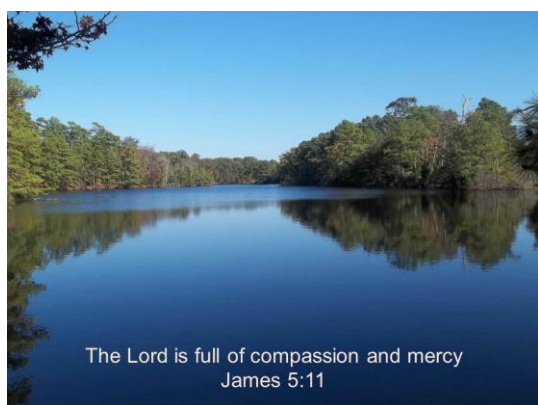
James 1 - 5 Rags to Riches (plays like Millionaire) <http://www.quia.com/rr/366399.htm>

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 (younger players) <http://www.quia.com/hm/435347.html>

James Vocabulary (Chapters 1 & 2) <http://www.quia.com/jg/1437381.html>



Other resources

72 free copyright free scripture graphics <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Freebie-72-copyright-free-scripture-graphics-from-James-1871103>

12 free skits about eternal destiny (one from James) <http://www.foolsforchrist.net/temptation--eternal-destiny.html>