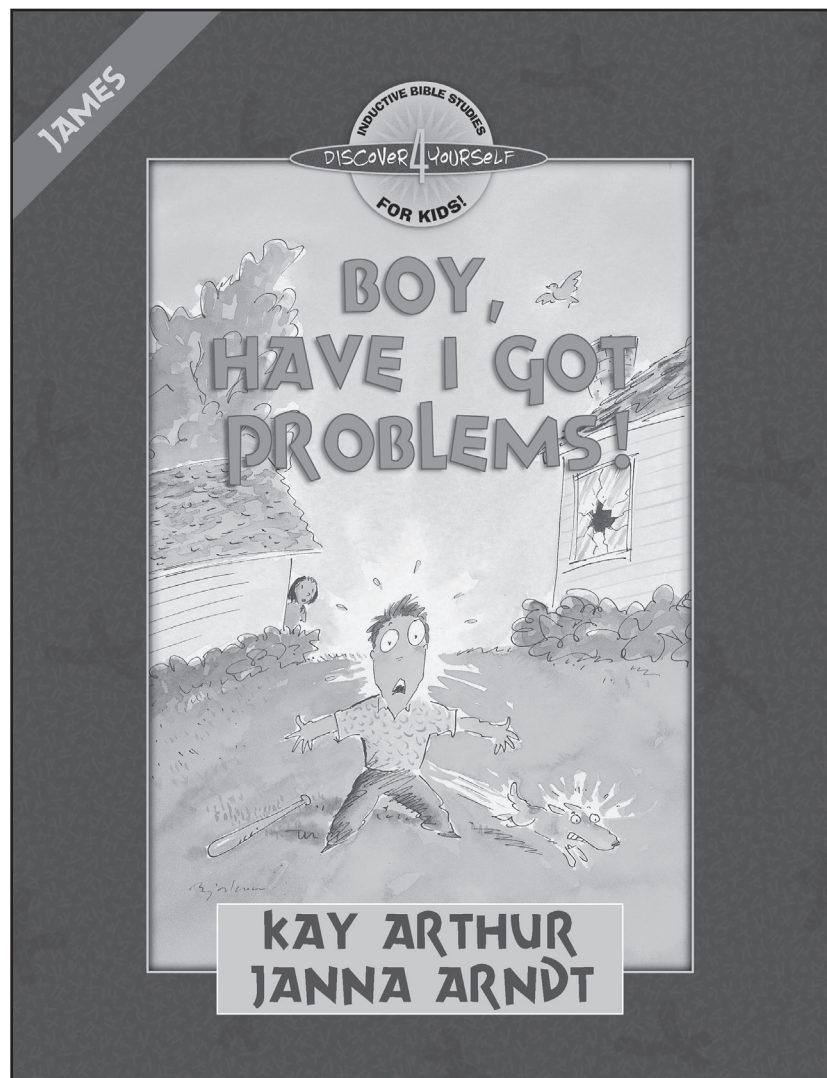




# TEACHER GUIDE

Elizabeth A. McAllister, Ed. D.

BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS TEACHER GUIDE

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# BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS

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# BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS

## TEACHER GUIDE

### Introduction

Thank you for selecting this Bible study for your child and/or class. Leading children to read, observe, interpret, and apply the Bible for themselves offers them a bridge from hearsay to real truth. As they learn to be comfortable with the idea that they can read the Bible, they will take the task seriously.

The Discover 4 Yourself series is designed to lead young students through the process of inductive study: question, question, question, search, think, understand, and apply. They will be comfortable with this process only after you prove that the possibility is within their reach.

**BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!** is a study of the book of James. Students will investigate the contents of James with the help of Ellie, an advice columnist. They will read about familiar problems that other children share and explore Scripture to answer the question, "How do I handle this?"

To prepare for leading **BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!** work through each "Day" on your own before consulting the Teacher Guide. Since this is an Inductive Bible Study your teaching will be more effective if you do the work first and God reveals His truth to you.

Whether you're homeschooling a child, teaching a Sunday school class, teaching in a Christian school, or simply using these studies for your child's quiet time or family Bible study, this Teacher Guide will show you how to clearly and carefully lead each child through Inductive Bible study. We offer suggestions to guide you step-by-step. *Instructional Strategies* explains why certain activities are used throughout the book. Choose the activities that best fit your situation.

### Homeschooling Parents and Family Bible Study

We suggest you do one "Day" per day unless it's too much for your child's reading and/or writing skills. You can work with your child and discuss what you learn together or let him/her work independently, saving discussion times for later.

You may want to join or create a homeschool group that meets once a week to do these studies. The teacher will assign a week of homework in class. The following week the teacher will lead the students to discuss what they discovered, how to apply it, and to work on any creative elements included in the study or play a game to review what they have learned.

## Sunday School Teachers

To use these studies in a weekly Sunday school class we suggest you do one “Day” together with your children each week in class, since you will have children from different backgrounds, even some from families that are not members of or even regularly attend a church.

Each Sunday briefly review the prior Sunday’s work to put them in text for the next day of study in their book. After completing a week in the book you may want to have a “Game Time Sunday” to review the material before you move on to the next week. Game time makes learning fun for children and shows you the extent to which they understand what they learned.

You can keep the books at church and have the children take home verses on index cards or pieces of paper to memorize.

## Classroom Teachers

Generally, classroom teachers face many different learning abilities within their groups. It is important for you to understand these different learning abilities so that you can meet each child where he or she is so that no one is left behind during the process.

It is important for you to bring in *schemata* (background information) for students to draw on. If you tie studies to something children already know, they will grasp the lessons clearly.

Grasp is also affected by *metacognition*—the ability to monitor understanding of the text. Students must be able to perform several functions to develop metacognitive control over reading and understanding. He or she must be able to:

1. Ask first, “What do I already know about this topic?” then, “Do I have enough information to understand this text?” Answers to these questions will directly influence the use of the inductive method.
2. Identify the purpose for reading each selection.
3. Focus on particular information.
4. Monitor understanding by recalling background knowledge and relating it to the text by asking questions like: “How am I doing?” “Am I keeping the big picture in mind?” “Am I bogged down?” “If so, how do I fix it—reread the passages or ask for help?” (Nothing wrong with the latter.)
5. Evaluate understanding of the text by asking, “What did I learn?” With respect to Inductive Bible Study, “How do I apply this information?”

## Instructional Strategies

Writing as a response reinforces learning and so this method is prevalent in these books. Encourage students to share ideas and insights with you and other students.

Reading is the highest intellectual activity of the human experience. More sectors of the brain are active than in other endeavors including mathematics and flying an airplane. It's the most totally interactive processing of information, even when children are reading Mother Goose.

Take time for students to read aloud with a friend. Reading *out loud* and listening promote interactions between the brain's left and right hemispheres and activate little-used pathways. Reading *silently* activates a much smaller part of the brain.

Give students a chance to express themselves at every opportunity. This forces them to retrieve information stored in their *schemata* (background knowledge) for application to new information. What better opportunity is there than to *inductively* look at curriculum and text?

You will notice that you are asked to read some content aloud as students follow along. This frees unsure readers to focus on text rather than decoding strategies. By doing this, you will remove stumbling blocks to understanding; otherwise, reluctant readers will be convinced that inductive study is impossible for them—the last thought you want to instill!

We have included weekly quizzes with memory verses and also multiple-choice questions that will force students to think about what they have learned. Based on how they answer these questions, you will know whether they have grasped the material adequately.

In view of this sparse introduction to learning requirements for success, it's important that you apply strategies that lead students to develop the ability to self-monitor understanding of text each step of the way. These **Teacher Guides** offer suggestions to assure that students, regardless of their abilities, will learn to read the Bible with understanding as you lead them, step-by-step, through the Inductive Study Method.

## Discover 4 Yourself Objectives

The Discover 4 Yourself series objectives are not the same as the behavioral objectives of general subject matter. The books contain outstanding biblical subjects of course, but they are written *primarily* to be a tool for young students to learn the Inductive Bible Study Method.

Playing an instrument well requires repetition and application of skills learned. Similarly, effective study is developed by repeated practice and good role modeling of an outstanding study method. Accordingly these **Teacher Guides** contain global objectives for the student *and the teacher*.

We'll start with the teacher.

## Discover 4 Yourself Teacher Guide Objectives

- ✓ To help the teacher identify students' metacognitive needs as they read texts.
- ✓ To show the teacher how to model use of the Inductive Study Method so students will be able to apply the techniques independently when studying God's Word.
- ✓ To offer the teacher effective teaching strategies to assure that students succeed when they study the Bible.

## Discover 4 Yourself Student Workbook Objectives

- ✓ To learn how to read, observe, and interpret the Bible for themselves.
- ✓ To practice this method independently within an encouraging environment.

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Discover 4 Yourself® Inductive Bible Studies for Kids

**BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!**

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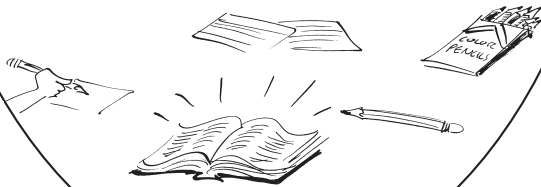
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## Guided Instruction

**1** Give a copy of **Boy, Have I Got Problems!** to each student.

**2** Together turn to the CONTENTS page and lead students through a quick overview of the book. Point out the structure of each chapter, noting that there will be a lesson and activities to do each day for five days.

### **"Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me" ..... 4**

A boy named Confused has written a letter to Ellie, an advice columnist. He has experienced a disappointment. How can Confused find answers to disappointment by reading Scripture?

### **"Sometimes I'm Tempted to Do Wrong" ..... 5**

How can you stand firm when everything seems to go wrong; when you seem to be assailed by temptation? Ellie leads "Feeling Guilty" through Scripture to see that God will help at all times.

### **"Sometimes I'm Not Nice" ..... 47**

God does not want us to feel more important than anyone else. Caring and Concerned asks Ellie what God has to say about favoritism.

### **"Sometimes My Mouth Gets Me in Trouble" .. 59**

Do you ever say things that are unkind and thoughtless? God speaks to us about this problem in James 3. It's better to say nothing than to say hurtful things to anyone.

### **"Sometimes All I Think About Is Me" ..... 73**

Stuck in the Middle asks Ellie how to handle friends who drag him into the middle of their differences. Sometimes, self-centeredness can tear people apart. In James 4, you will learn what God has to say about quarrels and conflicts.

### **"Sometimes Rich People Bother Me" ..... 87**

Sometimes you can feel that life isn't fair. Some people have everything that they want, regardless of their behavior. God has a lot to say about the rich who do not love Him. Always look to God for answers to life's troubling questions.

### **"Sometimes I Don't Know How to Pray" .... 105**

Do you sometimes feel that God is very far away? He is right beside you and in you if you are a Christian. He wants you to "talk" to Him about everything. Read what God has to say about His desire to answer your prayers.

## Guided Instruction

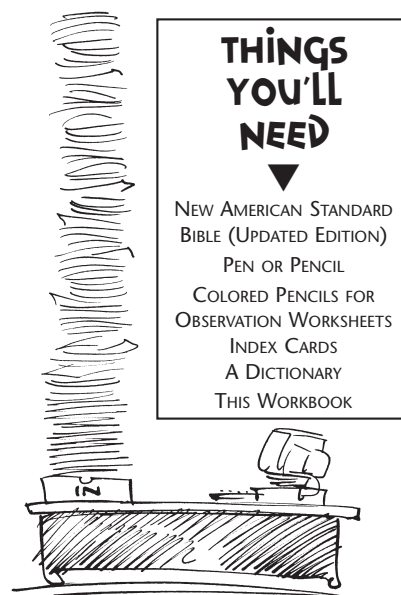
**3** After leading students through an overview of the Contents, turn to “Boy, Have I Got Problems” on page 4. Read aloud as students follow along.

(page 4)

**3**

### BOY, HAVE I GOT PROBLEMS!

Help! Ellie, our advice columnist, just got the flu. We have tons of mail and no one to answer it. Can you help us? I know filling Ellie’s shoes is a big job (she wears a size 11), but I’m sure you can do it because the answers to all these kids’ problems can be found in God’s Word and with the help of His Holy Spirit. In addition, you have this book. It’s called an inductive Bible study. That word *inductive* means that this Bible study is set up for you to discover *for yourself* what the book of James means. Instead of someone else telling you what the book is about, you’ll look at the Bible passages and figure it out for yourself. And that’s just what our readers need—someone to answer their questions straight from God’s Word. So if you’re ready, let’s open the first letter.



(page 5)



Okay, we're ready for our first letter. This one is from a guy named Confused. Let's see what he has to say.

4

Dear Ellie,

I wanted to try out for the basketball team next week, but yesterday at practice I fell and broke my leg. Now there is no way I can make the team. I am so disappointed. I have been praying for this chance for a year. Why would God let this happen to me? I try to obey His Word.

Signed,

Confused

(page 6)

4

Wow! Confused seems to need your help. What an awful thing to break your leg during basketball practice after all that hard work! No wonder he is confused and wondering why God would let this happen to him.

We need to get an answer to him right away—God's answer, not ours. So let's turn to James and begin. James is a letter that God had written and included in His book, the Bible, to help people with their problems.

But before we begin, first things first. We need to pray. Bible study should always begin with prayer. We need God's help not only to understand His Word, but also to help other people answer their questions in a way that's pleasing to God. Take a moment to pray, and then we're ready to take our first look at James.

## Guided Instruction

### WEEK 1



Pray for God's guidance as you learn how to face problems. Remember that He is always near you and wants you to come to Him.

4

Turn to page 5 and read the first letter to Ellie and the content at the top of page 6.

## Guided Instruction

- 5** Read “Oh, Those Trials,” on pages 6 and 7.
- 6** Then turn to page 129 and read James 1:1 aloud as students follow along.
- 7** Answer the questions on page 7.

**James 1:1 WHO wrote this book?**

James

**HOW does he describe himself? He is a bond-servant of God.**

**WHAT does it mean to be a bond-servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ? It means to be a slave by choice.**

(If students don't know the answer to the last question, read “From Slave to Bond-Servant” on page 8 and then answer.)

(page 6)



**5**

### OH, THOSE TRIALS

Turn to James 1 on page 129. The pages with the Bible text on them are called Observation Worksheets. We will use them to do our Bible study.

Today, when we read a letter we don't usually know who

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

7

the writer is until we see the signature at the end. In Bible times, the writer of the letter identified himself immediately. Instead of waiting till the end, the letter was signed at the beginning!

Watch! Read James 1, verse 1, and see who wrote this letter and what he tells us about himself.

(page 129)

## OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

### jAMES

#### Chapter 1

**6**

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

(page 7)

**7**

James 1:1 WHO wrote this book?

James

HOW does he describe himself?

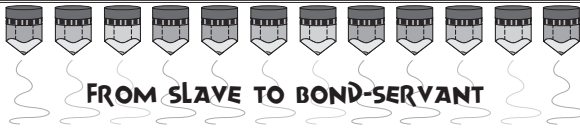
He is a bond-servant of God.

WHAT does it mean to be a bond-servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ?

It means to be a slave by choice.

8

## WEEK ONE



8

In Old Testament times, a slave that had served his time under Jewish law would be set free. That slave could go to his master and say, "I know I have served my time and that you have to release me according to the law, but living in your house is better than living on my own. I would rather be your slave than be set free."

The master would take the slave and place the slave's earlobe against the doorpost and drive an awl through it. An awl was a thick metal spike with a sharp-pointed end. When the master pulled out the awl, there was a hole that everyone could see. It was too big for an earring! When everyone saw this hole they would know that this slave had an awesome master because this slave had chosen to stay with his master and serve him rather than being set free! This made the slave a bond-servant for the rest of his life.

To be a bond-servant means to be a love slave for life.

A bond-servant is a person who has chosen to be a slave after he has been given his freedom.

James is saying that he is God's bond-servant.

He has totally surrendered his life to serve God and Jesus.

8

Now, let's see. To WHOM is James writing?

James 1:1 To the twelve tribes.

WHERE are the twelve tribes?

James 1:1 They are dispersed (scattered) abroad.

## Guided Instruction

8 Read "From Slave to Bond-Servant" on page 8 and answer the questions.

**James 1:1 To WHOM is James writing?**  
**To the twelve tribes**

**James 1:1 WHERE are the twelve tribes?** **They are dispersed (scattered) abroad.**

## Guided Instruction

**9** Read about text on page 9 and discuss what it is and why it is important. Then read “Away from Home” on page 9.

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

9

The WHERE question you just answered gives us a chance to talk about something important called *context*. When you study the Bible, it’s very important to understand the context of a passage. Context is a setting in which something is told or found. For example, where would you find a bed in your house? In the kitchen? No, of course not! You would find a bed in a bedroom. A bedroom is the context for a bed. When you look at context in the Bible, you look at the verses surrounding the passage you’re studying. You also think about where the passage fits in the big picture of the whole Bible. Context includes:

- the place where something happens
- the time an event occurs (you sleep in a bed at night and cook meals in the kitchen during the day)
- the customs of the group of people involved
- the time in history an event occurred

Sometimes you can discover all these things from just the verses you’re studying. Sometimes you have to study other passages of Scripture. It’s always important to be on the lookout for context because it helps you discover what the Bible is saying.



The twelve tribes are the Jews.

Being dispersed abroad means the Jews who believed in Jesus were living in foreign countries. The Jews were living someplace other than Israel—the land that God had given them for their permanent home!

These Jews had been scattered to other countries because of the difficult times for people who believed in Jesus.

10

## WEEK ONE

10

James 1:2 WHAT does James call them?

**Brethren**

*Brethren* means “brothers.” Now we know that all the Jews could not be James’ blood brothers! They didn’t all have the same parents. James is calling these Jews his brothers because they are his brothers in Christ. Their father is God because they have believed that Jesus is the Son of God.

James’ Christian brothers had problems, and he wanted to help them. When we don’t solve problems the right way, we can sin. And that makes God very sad!

Now that we have discovered who James is and to whom he’s writing, let’s read his letter and see what he has to say about problems (or trials as James calls them).

Read James 1:2-4.

Does verse 2 say *if* we encounter trials or *when* we encounter trials?

**When we encounter trials.**

Did you know the Bible was written in Greek? That’s because Greek was the language that was used in much of the world at the time the New Testament was written. Looking at Greek words and their meanings can help us understand what the writer intends when he uses certain words. Let’s look at the word *trials* in James 1:2. The Greek word for *trials* is *peirasmos*, which means to put to the test. A trial is a hard time that God allows to happen to us for our good. If one of your friends is mean to you, that would be a trial. God could use that trial to help you remember to be kind to others.

Why don’t you try saying this Greek word? It’s pronounced pi-ras-mos. Practice saying it to your friends. The next time you go through a trial, you can say *peirasmos*! Then you can share with your friends what the Bible says about trials. Isn’t that a neat way to share God’s Word?

**Guided Instruction**

**10** Answer the questions on page 10.

**James 1:2 WHAT does James call them?**

**Brethren**

**James 1:2 Does verse 2 say *if* we encounter trials or *when* we encounter trials? When we encounter trials.**

## Guided Instruction

**WHAT do we do when we encounter trials?** Consider it all joy.

**11** WHAT are some of the trials that you run into? Elicit discussion and share responses.

**WHAT are you to do when they happen?** Consider it all j o y!

**James 1:3-4** WHY do Christians have trials? Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

11

In verse 2, James tells us to do WHAT when we encounter trials?

Consider it all joy.

**11**

WHAT are some of the trials—the hard or difficult situations—you and your friends run into?

1. (elicit responses)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

And when they happen, what does God's Word say you are to do?

Consider it all j o y! (Spell it out.)

Isn't that amazing? Not only should we expect problems, James tells us, but we should be joyful about them. He also says we will have many trials.

Read James 1:3-4. WHY do Christians have trials?

Knowing that the testing of your faith

produces endurance. And let endurance

have its perfect result, so that you may be

perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



12

## WEEK ONE

God allows us to have problems to test our faith—to help us become more like Jesus, perfect and complete.

Right off the bat we see that James tells Confused what he needs to know about problems. Now that you've studied God's Word, let's answer Confused's letter.

12

*Dear Confused,*

*Ellie is out sick with the flu. My name is (student's name) and I'm helping answer Ellie's letters while she is sick. I am so sorry to hear that you broke your leg right before basketball tryouts. I know that God's Word holds all the answers to life's problems. I've been studying the book of James, a letter to Jewish Christians about problems.*

*Let me share with you what I learned today. In James 1:2, James tells us to consider it all joy when we encounter various trials. That means that as Christians we can expect to have unplanned trials.*

*Even though trials are painful, like not being able to make the basketball team, they are for our good. God has a purpose for us during a trial. Verse 3 tells us that trials test our faith, and produce endurance. Verse 4 says, "Let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

*This verse shows us how much God loves and cares about us. He wants us to grow up to be mature and complete. God uses trials in our life to test our faith, to see if we are trusting in Him. I am going to memorize this verse so I'll be ready the next time problems pop up. Why don't you memorize it, too?*

## Guided Instruction

**12** Read the letter from Ellie to Confused on pages 12-13 and complete answers.

## Guided Instruction

**13** Give students each an index card, have them copy memory verse James 1:2-4 to it, and then read it out loud several times. Practice saying this verse out loud with your child or class. Discuss what this text means.

**Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

**James 1:1-2**

Ask God for His guidance as you study His Word.

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

13

*I understand your disappointment that you didn't get to try out for the basketball team. I would be disappointed, too! But remember, keep trusting in God.*

Signed, (student's name)

*P.S. We'll write again once we have done some more studying in James.*



Here's the verse that you told Confused about. It's a great verse to memorize, isn't it? After all, everybody has trials!

**James 1:2-4**

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

**13**

Now write James 1:2-4 on an index card and carry it with you. Read it out loud three times a day—morning, lunchtime, and evening—and by the end of the week you'll have it memorized. Why don't you try saying it to a friend? Ask your friend to check you to see if you are saying the verse right. When you ask your friend to help you, your friend will get to hear this verse, too. You'll be sharing God's Word with your friend! Once you have God's Word hidden in your heart, you'll be ready to face anything. You won't be as likely to let things disappoint you or take away your hope.

14

WEEK ONE



14

**LET'S UNLOCK THE DOOR. . .**

We have a stack of mail on our desk. Boy, have people ever got problems! But before we open any more mail, we need to find some more answers to help Confused. Let's look at the letter James wrote to the Jewish believers to see what we can learn about God and why God would let this happen to Confused. Remember to pray before you begin!

Turn to James 1 on page 129. Today we are going to look at key words. Key words are words that pop up again and again. They are important in helping us understand the meaning of the Bible passage. Key words help us to unlock the door and discover what James is telling us in his letter.

- Key words are words that are repeated.
- Key words are important.
- Key words are used by the writer for a reason.

Every time you find a key word, you need to mark it by coloring it its own color or by using a symbol.

Here are some helpful ways to mark the following key words (or you can make up your own symbols). Just remember to keep them simple.

15

 God (also, Lord) (purple triangle, colored yellow)

 faith (blue book, colored green)

Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me

15

 trials (red fire)

wisdom (colored yellow, underlined orange)

**Guided Instruction**

**14** Read "Let's Unlock the Door..." on pages 14 and 15. Discuss what you learn about Key Words and why you mark them.

**15** Give each child a large index card to make a key word bookmark. Tell them to write out the key words listed and how they're going to mark them on their cards allowing room for more later. This way they will see the key words at a glance when they turn to their Observation Worksheets and start marking the words. You can write the key words and markings on a white board.

If you are teaching in a classroom and have an overhead projector, make a transparency of your Observation Worksheet for a visual aid. You may want to blow it up to poster size and hang it on a wall and then have your students call each key word out loud as you read it and mark it together—you on the transparency and they in their books. If you're skilled at PowerPoint and have time, you can import an Observation Worksheet then select symbols from PP's palette or elsewhere, color them, place them over the words, and even animate them—bring them in one at a time.

**God (also, Lord) (purple triangle, colored yellow)**

**faith (blue book, colored green)**

**trials (red fire)**

**wisdom (colored yellow, underlined orange)**

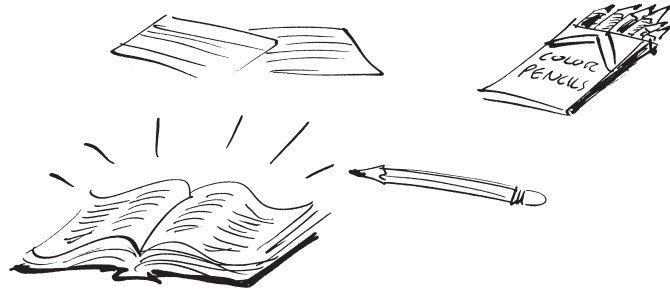
## Guided Instruction

**16** Read “Pronouns” on page 15.

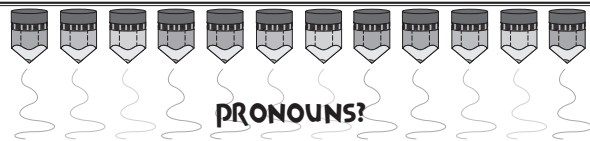
If you are teaching young children, make sure they understand what pronouns are before you start marking your key words.

(page 15)

Also remember to mark any other words that mean the same thing as the key word, such as pronouns.



**16**



Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns:

*Brent* went to the park. *He* played soccer.

The word *he* is a pronoun because it takes the place of Brent's name in the sentence.

Watch for these other pronouns when you are marking key words:

|      |       |     |      |
|------|-------|-----|------|
| I    | you   | he  | she  |
| me   | yours | him | her  |
| mine |       | his | hers |
| we   | it    |     |      |
| our  | its   |     |      |
| they | them  |     |      |

Hang in there—you can do it!

(page 129)

## OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

17

## JAMES

## Chapter 1

- 1 James, a bond-servant of  God and of the  Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.
- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various ~~trials~~
- 3 knowing that the testing of your  faith produces endurance.
- 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of  God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But he must *ask in*  faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the  Lord,
- 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- 9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;
- 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.
- 11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.
- 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under ~~trials~~ for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the  Lord has promised to those who love  Him.

129

## Guided Instruction

- 17 Read James 1 aloud using your Observation Worksheet visual aid as students follow along and call out each key word. Then mark them together as we noted on page 19. Pray that God will enlighten you to a special message from His Word.

## Guided Instruction

130

## OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by  God”; for  God cannot be tempted by evil, and  He  Himself does not tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the  Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

18 In the exercise of  His will  He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among  His creatures.

19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of  God.

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless.

## Guided Instruction

### OBSERVATION WORKSHEETS

131

27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our  God and  Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

16

### WEEK ONE

Great job! Tomorrow we will begin to see what we have discovered by marking these key words.

*P.S.* Don't forget to practice your memory verse!

## Guided Instruction



**18** Reread James 1:1-11 and list three things about God on page 16. Have your students take turns reading these verses out loud.

(page 16)



### WHO IS GOD?

How should we begin?  
That's right—we should pray first!

Now turn to page 129 and look at James 1:1-11. You'll see that you marked the word *God* or *Lord* in these verses. After you mark a key word, it's good to make a list of what you've learned. Today we are going to make a list of the three things you discover about God from James 1:1-11.

We've done the first one for you.

(page 129)

### Chapter 1

- 18** 1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.
- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,
- 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- 9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;
- 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.
- 11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.



(page 16)

We've done the first one for you.

1. James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.
2. James 1:5 God gives it generously.
3. James 1:5 God gives it without reproach.

Now let's go to other verses in the Bible and see what we can learn about God. When we go to other verses in the Bible to see what they say, this is called cross-referencing. Let's see who God is. How can He save us?

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

17

Isaiah 14:24 I have intended so it has happened,  
and just as I have planned so it will stand.

Isaiah 14:27 The LORD of hosts has planned,  
and who can frustrate it?

Now turn to Deuteronomy 32:39.

What do we see about God in this verse?

I am He.

There is no god besides Me.

I put to death and give life.

I have wounded and I heal.

There is no one who can deliver from My hand.

## Guided Instruction

1. James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.
2. James 1:5 God gives it generously.
3. James 1:5 God gives it without reproach.

Locate Isaiah 14 in your Bible. Read Isaiah 14:24-27 to answer the questions on page 17.

**WHAT do we see about the Lord of hosts?**

**Isaiah 14:24** I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand.

**Isaiah 14:27** The Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it?

Locate Deuteronomy 32:39 and answer the questions on page 17.

**I am He.**

**There is no god besides Me.**

**I put to death and give life.**

**I have wounded and I heal.**

**There is no one who can deliver from My hand.**

## Guided Instruction

Locate Daniel 4:34-35 to discover WHAT King Nebuchadnezzar says about the Most High and answer the questions on pages 17–18.

**The Most High is to be praised and honored.**

**He lives forever.**

**His dominion is an everlasting dominion.**

**His kingdom endures from generation to generation.**

**He does according to His will.**

**No one can ward off His hand.**

**No one can say, “What have You done?”**

Discuss these verses with your child or students. Ask them “What do these verses show us about God?” Discuss what God’s sovereignty means.

**19** Read the text on page 18 and draw a picture of God ruling over everyone and everything.

(page 17)

**21**

Turn to Daniel 4:34-35. WHAT does King Nebuchadnezzar say about the Most High?

Daniel 4:34: The Most High is to be praised and honored

He lives forever

His dominion is an everlasting dominion

His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:35: He does according to His will

18

WEEK ONE

No one can ward off His hand

No one can say, “What have You done?”

**19**

All these verses show us that our God is sovereign, which means God rules over everything. There is nothing in this universe that God does not have total, absolute, and complete control over.

Everything that happens to us must first be okayed by God.

God created everything, and He is in control of everything.

Just think, *no one* can do anything to you without God’s permission. Isn’t that awesome!

Romans 8:28 says, “We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” This verse shows us that if we are God’s children and love Him, all things (even bad things) will turn out for good.

What a great promise from God to encourage us when bad things happen!

Why don’t you draw a picture of God ruling over everyone and everything to send to Confused? That way he will have a picture of who our Most High God is.

**19**

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

19

Way to go! Aren't you excited about all that you've seen today concerning our heavenly Father?



## Guided Instruction

Ask God to keep you growing in His Word. He will be with you during this study.

## Guided Instruction



**20** Read “Standing Firm or Tossed by the Wind?” on page 19. Discuss what *wisdom, faith, doubting, and double-minded* mean.

**21** Turn to page 129 and reread James 1:1-8 to answer the questions on page 20.



(page 19)

**20**

### STANDING FIRM OR TOSSED BY THE WIND?

Have you practiced your memory verse today?

Then you’re ready to turn to James 1 on page 129.

Today we are going to see what James 1:1-8 has to say about faith, wisdom, and doubting. Remember, Confused is doubting God. Don’t forget to pray! Then read James 1:1-8.

Now let’s look at what *wisdom, faith, doubting, and double-minded* mean.



(page 129)

**21**

#### Chapter 1

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

high

James 1:1-8.

Now let's look at what *wisdom*, *faith*, *doubting*, and *double-minded* mean.

(page 19)



*Wisdom* means knowing the right thing to do. You show wisdom when you make the right choice.

*Faith* means believing God. You believe what God says in the Bible, and it shows by the way you act. You decide to do what God wants you to do.

*Doubting* means you aren't sure about something.

*Double-minded* means you keep changing your mind. You are not sure what you think, so you go back and forth trying to decide.

20

WEEK ONE

22

1. James 1:3 WHAT does God test?

**Your faith**

2. James 1:5 HOW are we to get wisdom?

**Ask God for it**

3. Look in your Bible at Daniel 2:20-23 and write down WHY we should ask God instead of people for wisdom.

Daniel 2:20 **Wisdom** and **power** belong to Him.

Daniel 2:22 It is He who **reveals** the profound and hidden things.

wisdom

## Guided Instruction

**22** Answer questions 1 and 2 on page 20.

**James 1:3** WHAT does God test? **Your faith**

**James 1:5** HOW are we to get wisdom? **Ask God for it.**

Read Daniel 2:20-22 to answer the questions.

**Daniel 2:20** **Wisdom and power** belong to Him.

**Daniel 2:22** It is He who **reveals** the profound and hidden things.

## Guided Instruction

**23** Return to page 129 and reread James 1:5-8 to answer questions 4–8.

**James 1:5 Is God stingy about giving us the wisdom we ask for?** No, God generously gives wisdom.

**James 1:6 HOW are we to ask for wisdom?** In faith without any doubt

**James 1:6 WHAT picture does James give us of a doubter?** Like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by wind

**James 1:7 WHAT will the doubter receive from the Lord?** Nothing

**James 1:8 HOW is the doubter described?** A double-minded man unstable in all his ways.

(page 129)

**23**

and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

high

(page 20)

4. James 1:5 Is God stingy about giving us the wisdom we have asked for?

No, God generously gives wisdom.

5. James 1: 6 HOW are we to ask for wisdom? (Remember what you learned in the word box.)

In faith without any doubt

6. James 1:6 WHAT pictures does James give us of a doubter?

Like surf of the sea driven and tossed by wind

7. James 1:7 WHAT will the doubter receive from the Lord?

Nothing

8. James 1:8 HOW is the doubter described?

A double-minded man unstable in all his ways

Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me

21

Now let's write another letter to Confused and share what we have learned about God, faith, wisdom, and doubting.

24

Dear Confused,

*I just wanted to share with you what I have learned from studying James about God, faith, wisdom, and doubting.*

*God is sovereign. That means that He is in control of everything that happens to us, like your breaking your leg. Deuteronomy 32:39 says, "It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal." When I have trials, I am to go to God and ask Him for **wisdom** without **doubting**. If I turn to God and believe what He says, trials will not be able to toss me around like the surf is tossed by the wind. God will give me the wisdom I have asked for to help me endure the trial. Just remember who God is, ask Him for His help, and lean on His promise in Romans 8:28 that He will use this circumstance for good.*

*I will be praying for you that God will use your broken leg to help you handle trials His way.*

*Asking in faith,*

**(student's name)**

Just for fun, see if you can solve this rebus. A rebus is a word puzzle that mixes pictures and words. When you combine the pictures and letters by adding or subtracting letters, you will end up with a new word.

Hint: The answer to this rebus is one of the verses you're memorizing this week.

## Guided Instruction

**24** Read Ellie's letter to Confused and complete the sentence:

When I have trials, I am to go to God and ask Him for **wisdom** without **doubting**.

## Guided Instruction

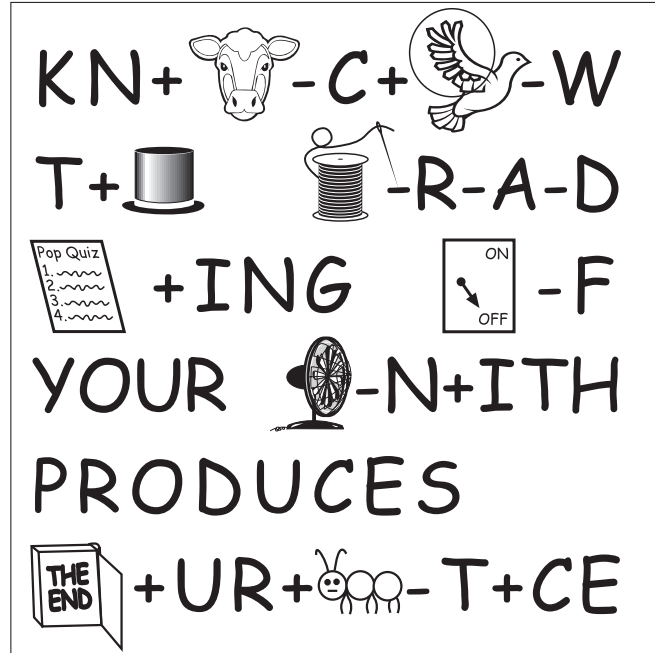
**25** Complete the rebus puzzle on page 22.

**Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance**

Before reading the next letter to Ellie, ask God to be with you during this study.

22

WEEK ONE

**25**

**Knowing that the testing**

**of your faith produces**

**endurance**

You're doing great! We know that God is pleased with all your hard work.

*P.S.* Here's an exercise that you can do to demonstrate putting your trust in the right place—in God. Take a yardstick and try balancing it straight up and down while looking down at your hand. As long as you are looking at your hand (this represents trusting yourself), you cannot balance the yardstick. But if you look up at the top of the yardstick while

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

23

trying to balance it, it works. This is just like looking up to God and putting your trust in Him, instead of in yourself.



(page 23)



26

**RICH MAN, POOR MAN**

The editor, Mr. Chase, just came by and said we have room for one more letter before the paper goes to print. So let's begin today by digging into our stack of mail and answering another letter for Ellie. But before we begin, let's remember to pray so that God can give us the wisdom that we need.

Dear Ellie,

Today at school I overheard some girls making fun of my clothes. It really hurt my feelings because I thought they were my friends. I would love to have clothes like theirs, but we don't have the money for expensive clothes. I feel so left out.

**H. J.**

Hurt and Jealous

Hurt and Jealous (HJ) needs our help. Let's turn to James 1 on page 129 and begin our study today by marking the key words listed on the next page.

**Guided Instruction**

**26** Turn to page 23 and read "Rich Man, Poor Man."

Add new words to your bookmark.

**rich man (green \$)**

**humble (poor) (blue box and arrows pointing down, colored yellow)**

24

WEEK ONE

 rich man (green \$)

 humble (poor) (blue box and arrows pointing down, colored yellow)

## Guided Instruction

**27** Turn to James 1 on page 129 and read aloud using your Observation Worksheet visual aid as students follow along and call out each key word. Then mark them together as we noted on page 19.

**28** Make a list of what God says with respect to the rich man and the humble man.

| Rich Man                                | Poor Man                                 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <u>glory in his humiliation (v. 10)</u> | <u>glory in his high position (v. 9)</u> |
| <u>passes away (v. 10)</u>              |                                          |

**29** Elicit discussion to answer questions on pages 24-25.

(page 129)

**27**

9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;  
 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.  
 11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

(page 24)

Now that we've marked these words, let's see what God has to say about the rich man and the brother of humble circumstances (just like HJ).

Let's make a list.

**28**

Rich Man

Poor Man

glory in his humiliation (v. 10)  
passes away (v. 10)

glory in his high position (v. 9)

**29**

Who do you think sees his need for God—the rich man or the poor man?

\_\_\_\_\_

This is a hard passage to understand, but it is important. From the list you made, you see that the poor man is to glory in his high position.

WHY would God think being poor is a high position?

\_\_\_\_\_

Let me ask you this: WHEN do you pray the most?

\_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me

25

Is it *when* you need help the most? \_\_\_\_\_

Isn't that when we run to God and put our trust in Him?

Now what about the rich man? WHAT is he to glory in?

\_\_\_\_\_

This means the rich man is to get excited when he sees his need for God. His need causes him to trust God.

What should we do for those who have needs when we have enough to share? Let's do a little cross-referencing by looking at Acts 2:42-46 at what the early church was doing.

Acts 2:45 WHAT were the believers doing?

**Selling possessions and sharing with all who**

**have need**

Look up and read Acts 4:33-37.

Acts 4:34 WHAT does it say about the needy?

**There was not a needy one among them.**

Acts shows us that the early believers were selling their property and possessions and sharing them with anyone who had a need. As a result of this sharing, we see that there was not a needy person among them.

What about you? Is there something you can do to help someone who has a need, or who just doesn't have clothes as nice as yours?

## Guided Instruction

Read Acts 2:45 and Acts 4:33-37 to answer the questions on page 25.

**Acts 2:45** WHAT were the believers doing? **Selling possessions and sharing with all who have need**

**Acts 4:33-37** WHAT does it say about the needy? **There was not a needy one among them.**

## Guided Instruction

**30** Read Ellie's letter to Hurt and Jealous on pages 26 and 27.

26

WEEK ONE

Maybe you could be a friend to that person by inviting him or her over to your house.

Maybe you could give this person one of your special shirts or one of your skirts.

Why don't you pray and ask God for His wisdom in how you can help someone like Hurt and Jealous.

Now that we've studied God's Word about the rich and the poor, let's see if we can help Hurt and Jealous.

**30**

*Dear Hurt and Jealous,*

*It hurt me, too, when I read your letter and saw how you've been treated. I am studying God's Word to help me know how to handle trials God's way. And you are definitely going through a trial, a test.*

*This is what I learned today about being rich or poor. God places His children in different circumstances. We are to boast in the position that God has put us in. If we are poor, we may not have money or the status that the world thinks is important, but we are rich in faith. We are a child of the King! The things we have on earth don't last, but being a child of the King is forever! If you were rich, you could have some big problems like trusting in your clothes to make you popular or accepted. If we are rich, we need to guard against trusting in what we have because those things do not last. We need to trust Jesus and follow Him only.*

*I know it hurts to be laughed at and to be left out. But God will use this hard time to make you more like Jesus. Just remember: You have a high position. You are a child of the King if you belong to Jesus!*

*Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me*

27

*I'll be praying for you and for the girls at school. I'm going to pray that they will learn it doesn't matter what you have, but to whom you belong.*

*Boasting in Him,*

**(student's name)**

Take a moment to think about this and ask yourself some questions.

(page 27)

Take some time now and ask yourself some questions.

**31**

How do you treat kids who are different than you?

---

---

Write a response below on how you should treat others who have less than you have.

---

---

---

Well, it has been quite a week! Did you learn your memory verse? Did you say it to one of your friends? What did he or she think? Did it give you a chance to talk to your friend about Jesus?

Ellie and Mr. Chase are thrilled with all your hard work and help with the advice column. You're doing a great job!

## Guided Instruction

**31**

Elicit reflection and discussion to answer the personal questions on page 27.

God is pleased with your diligence. Remember, He is with you throughout this study.

Practice saying the memory verse out loud to a grown-up.

If you are a classroom teacher you may want to give your students a quiz on their memory verse. There is also a quiz on Week One on page 140 to check memory and understanding.

If you are a Sunday School teacher this is a great time to review the whole week by playing a game like the *5W and H Game* on page 150 or the *Matching Game* page 151. This is also a great way for classroom teachers and homeschool families to review with students what they learned this week.

## D4Y “Boy, Have I Got Problems” Quizzes

### Week 1: Sometimes Bad Things Happen to Me

1. How exactly does James describe himself?
  - a. An unbeliever
  - b. A nice person
  - c. A man of God
  - d. A bond-servant of God
2. What is a “bond-servant”?
  - a. A friend I make serve me
  - b. Someone who has chosen to be a slave after he has been given his freedom
  - c. A bully who pushes people around
  - d. A brother or sister who wants to be “boss”
3. Who is James writing to?
  - a. Jewish neighbors
  - b. A church
  - c. Twelve tribes
  - d. Twelve churches
4. What does the testing of our faith produce?
  - a. endurance
  - b. doubts and fears
  - c. discouragement
  - d. apostasy (quitting)
5. How should we consider these tests? As all . . .
  - a. worthless
  - b. joy
  - c. discouraging
  - d. hopeless
6. Which answer describes how much wisdom God gives when we ask Him?
  - a. stingily
  - b. none
  - c. generously
  - d. a little
7. To get wisdom from God, in addition to asking I...
  - a. don't have to believe
  - b. have to believe without doubting
  - c. have to go to church
  - d. have to believe some of the time
8. James says doubting God is like
  - a. a shrinking balloon
  - b. a falling star
  - c. quicksand
  - d. a sea wave thrown back and forth by wind
9. A poor believer can brag that he is rich because
  - a. God will give him a lot of money
  - b. God has given him a high position
  - c. other believers have to give him a lot of money
  - d. God will make him even poorer
10. The rich believer can brag that he will be poor because:
  - a. he will lose his wealth before he dies.
  - b. he will give away all his riches.
  - c. like flowering grass, he will pass away.
  - d. all of the above

#### Memory Verses: James

1:2 “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”