

JAMES: A “HOW-TO” MANUAL FOR LIFE

James 1:1

If you are looking to make positive changes in your life, James is the “how-to-do-it” letter for Christians. Today, we will ask and answer two questions by way of introduction to this book.

1. Who Is James?

Possible Candidates:

Date of Writing:

2. Why Should We Listen to Him?

Because of his _____

Because of his _____

Because of his _____

For the Family

Read James 1:1:

*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:
Greetings.*

Explain that we are going to be reading from the book of James, written by a man named James, who was the brother of Jesus.

James didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God while Jesus was alive. When Jesus first started preaching and healing people, Jesus' family wanted him to stop. They said that Jesus was "out of his mind" (Mark 3:21).

But after Jesus rose from the dead and James saw him, he became a believer. In fact, James became a main leader in the church in Jerusalem, and wrote the book of James.

Even though James was the brother of Jesus and an important leader in the church, he opens his letter by calling himself a "servant." He learned that from Jesus:

Matthew 20:26–28— ... But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus is the Son of God, and yet he says that he came to serve. If we want to be like Jesus, we will learn to be a servant.

Talk together about what it means to be a servant. Think about some practical ways you can serve each other in your family:

Instead of waiting to be told to do our chores, we can look for things that need done, and do them. We can ask, "What can I do to help?" Think together of other ways we can be servants.

Pray together that God will help you learn how to be a servant, like James and Jesus. Ask him to help you see opportunities to serve others.