

Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Welcome & Week One

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*



Welcome to Coffee Talk!

Coffee Talk at La Mirada Christian Church is a place where you will find hope and encouragement in the teaching and testimonies each week.

Have you ever felt like you were the only one going through a particular struggle? Like, if anyone around you ever knew what you were really going through, they'd be shocked?

Maybe you or a loved one has struggled with depression, anxiety, hopelessness. Perhaps you have gone through a difficult loss, a heartbreak, or diagnosis...whatever your challenge has been, we are here together to offer a haven of rest and a message of hope.

God uses difficult seasons to teach us patience and bring us into a more mature faith. But waiting on God, trusting in God, or hoping that "God will..." can often feel out of reach.

That's where Faith and Fellowship Women's Ministries comes in. We have a heart to come alongside women who want more...more hope, more faith, more truth. During the summer, we host the Coffee Talk series for women and by women who are willing to share honestly about where they've been and how they've found strength, peace, hope and more in following Jesus Christ.

Join us every Monday night at 6:30pm or Tuesday morning at 9:30am. You'll hear from women, like you, who are looking for real relationships and a deeper faith.

I look forward to connecting with you this summer!

In Christ,

Jennifer Richmond

Women's Pastor, La Mirada Christian Church

June – August 2011

Mondays 6:30pm or Tuesdays 9:30am

June

- 12/13 Jennifer Richmond “Unexpected Hope”
– *Special Kick-Off Dinner with the men \$5 for Tom’s Tailgate Tacos 6pm*
- 19/20* Bible study - “Our True Source of Hope”
- 20*/26 Rachel Barsha – “Finding Joy in God’s Plan”

July

- 3/4 Happy 4th of July! No Meetings
- 10/11 Cathy Wells (10th) – “Saved by Grace”
Monica Chavez (11th) - “My First Talk with God”
- 17/18 Bible study - “What Prayer Can Do”
- 24/25 Rebekah Cañamar – “Lost in Christ, Forever Found”
- 31 Bible study – “Walking in Faith”

August

- 1 Bible study - “Walking in Faith”
- 7/8 Teresa Mestas - “God’s Faithfulness”
- 14/15 Bible study - “Sharing Your Story”

**Rachel will be sharing on Tuesday, June 20 & Monday, June 26 due to VBS on the 27th*



*Would you like to support Women’s Ministries at LMCC?
You can make a donation at any time and mark it for “Women’s Ministries.”
Donations support not only ministry to the women of LMCC,
but to needy families and women in our community.*

Thank you! ♥

- Coffee Talk -

Faith and Fellowship Women's Ministries
at La Mirada Christian Church

Who we are...

...real women in every stage of life who have found that only in Jesus Christ can we have true hope.

What we do...

...encourage one another to seek God for wisdom and hope

...strengthen and support each other in all of life's challenges and blessing

...share our strengths and weaknesses so we can point others to the truth of God's Word and the blessing of a mature relationship with Him.

Why Coffee Talk?

To provide a haven of hope and encouragement, fun and friendship, and real answers based on the truths of God's Word.

What to expect...

Some yummy food and coffee too...casual and encouraging atmosphere...place to make friends and deepen friendships...Bible-based teaching...real and honest stories from women like you who have found lasting hope and peace in Jesus...faith-building Bible study



Coffee Talk meets every week - Mondays at 6:30pm or Tuesdays at 9:30am - from June 12-August 15. In between each Coffee Talk, you'll get a Bible study that will be written to encourage and strengthen you in your faith. Each week's Bible study will help you read the Bible, think about spiritual things, grow deeper in your faith, and most importantly - point you to God as the only true source of hope.

Missed a talk? Want to join the daily Bible study? Our summer book club?

It's all available at on our Dwelling Richly podcast:

1. Download "PodBean" app on your phone.
2. Search "Dwelling Richly" and follow the podcast to get updates.

You can also join Jennifer live on our Facebook page: "LMCC Women" or catch the replay on Facebook or the Dwelling Richly podcast:

Live Bible Study: 7am **weekdays** on Facebook starting June 14

You'll need a Bible & the Coffee Talk Summer Study

Live Book Club: 8am, **Saturdays** on Facebook starting June 24

You'll need: "Seasons of Waiting" by Betsy Childs Howard

June 24-August 19 Read the chapter and join the conversation.

August 19 Book Club social. 9am Location TBA

Discussion Questions

June 12/13, 2017

Let's get to know one another...

- What's your name and one of the following...
 - Favorite candy bar...Yum
 - Dream vacation...oooooh, fun!
 - Unusual skill you have!...unless you're a spy. Shhhhh.... 😊
- What would you do if you were invited for dinner and they served your least favorite food – not something you're allergic to or can't eat – but just something you reeeeeeaallllly, really hate?
- Tonight, Jennifer will be sharing her story entitled, "Unexpected Hope." When have you been surprised by something in your life?
- What's is the best advice you ever got about how to deal with disappointment?

“Unexpected Hope”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Unexpected Hope”



Jennifer has been with LMCC family since 2001 and active on staff since 2010. She's a published author of two and illustrator of six books and has produced two albums of original Scripture-based worship music. Since 1988, she has been an educator in the community teaching elementary ages and directing summer day camps for kids. She is active in educating in the homeschool community and is the director of Eureka Educational Ministries - a ministry and academic program for homeschool families.

As a pastor at LMCC, Jennifer's heart is that women would be firm in their Christian faith by having a passion for God's Word and in growing closer to the Lord. Jennifer speaks nationally at women's events, churches, and retreats bringing a message of hope and wellness – spiritually, physically, emotionally - and pointing women to Jesus as their Savior and only true hope. Jennifer's heart is to see women become committed and knowledgeable followers of Christ who are grounded in the Word of God and know why they believe.

Jennifer loves to cook, read, and go on road trips in search of great food! She and her husband Glen have been married since 1988 and are the proud parents of their grown son, Jonathan. They're enjoying this empty nest season and love their ministry at La Mirada.

- Notes -

-More Notes!-

Wow, you're a really good notetaker!

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week One – June 12-18

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

~ This Week's Focus ~

When our focus is on God and His truth, we can have true peace and direction in our lives.

Day One

1. **Read Psalm 139** – This Psalm was written by David, the 2nd king over Israel. He wrote over half of the Psalms in this book of the Bible and is regarded by Christians, Jews, and Muslims and others to be one of the greatest authors of all time. His words are honest and powerful, but more importantly, they are the inspired Words of God given to David and to all who read them. God had a heart for David and David, as the Bible says was “a man after God’s own heart.” In spite of this lofty title, David was a frail and failing human who lived a dynamic yet often tortured life. He committed murder and adultery. Suffered the loss of a newborn child, the rebellion and attempted murder of his own son, the tragic death of his best friend, and the bitter attacks of his one-time mentor and former king of Israel. We can learn a lot not only from his life but from the words he shared in his many writings.

2. What truths do you read about the nature of God? List the verses and the truth you find in each one:

Vertical line for writing response to question 2.

3. Consider what type of life event or experience could have prompted David to write this Psalm. Share your thoughts here:

Vertical line for writing response to question 3.

4. Write a verse or verses from this chapter that especially spoke to you:

Vertical line for writing response to question 4.

Day Four

1. Write Psalm 139:13-18

2. What is David’s understanding of when life and God’s hand in his life begins? (v13-14)

Life begins _____

God’s part in the forming of life:

3. Think about what Psalm 139:13-18 says about the beginning and ending of one’s life. What does this say to you about God’s plan for our lives?

4. Which of the verses in this passage might come to mind if someone told you they felt unloved, unvalued, insignificant? Why?

5. Do you think it’s possible to ever fully grasp the nature of God? Why or why not?

From my heart to yours...

In 2004, two weeks before Christmas, I discovered that my husband had been emotionally and sexually unfaithful with a woman for nearly a year. I cannot bear to relive the moments of anguish I went through that evening when I found the truth. The pain was crushing like a physical weight on my soul, sapping the breath and life from me. I wept bitter broken tears. The ache was horrendous. I wouldn't wish it upon anyone. Over the next hours I screamed at God not in anger towards Him, but in desperation to release the betrayal my body was absorbing. I shuddered at the images that invaded my mind. I cringed at the months I had lived under the same roof with a man who had broken the most sacred of vows. I trembled under the physical and emotional shock in my body.

Alone at home, as the days went forward, I spent hours on my knees in prayer. Where do I go? Who will deliver me from this pain? Can I ever move on? What next? Where? Help me, Oh, God. I wanted to die. I wanted to vanish. I wanted the pain to end. Christmas day was coming and I had no desire to celebrate.

*I sat and stared.
(What next?)
The anger had seethed into
desperate hurt.*

The tree was already up and decorated, presents had already been wrapped and placed, holiday plans made and now. . . what? On Christmas Eve, after kissing my son goodnight, I went back downstairs and sat on the sofa next to the tree. Alone with my thoughts in a dark, empty home. The only lights on in the house were the white lights of the tree. I just sat and stared and thought. What next? The shocked and anger had seethed into desperate hurt. I wept and stared some more.

Looking at the tree, I saw the ornaments from each of our Christmases together. Our first Christmas as an engaged couple – skis from Mammoth – Our first Christmas as a married couple – a little house – Our first Christmas with a baby – a little baby in a manger...every ornament hanging on that tree represented a year of our life and I felt that I wanted to crush every one of them, throw them all in the fireplace and burn them up.

Thoughts of my sweet eight-year-old son sleeping upstairs and looking forward to Christmas morning kept me from doing something rash. Instead I clutched the sofa and screamed out a silent scream lifting my head and wailing to God, "I'm so afraid! I'm so hurt! What do you want me to do?" I heaved and hiccupped through the tears and when I could breathe again I heard a whisper in my heart, "Forgive him."

I wanted the pain and fear to end.

I wanted the one who had caused the pain to pay.

I wanted to be free and whole and done and healed...but in no way was I ready to forgive.

Too soon.

Too much pain.

But I had clearly asked God what to do. And He had clearly spoken.

Forgive.

Sister, I have no earthly explanation for what took place in my spirit in the next hours, but I do know this...I had presented my request to God, "What do I do?" and He had answered. When I released the tension in my shoulders. When I unclenched my fists from the edge of the sofa. When I breathed out and breathed in again, a tranquility came over me that defies understanding. These Words of God became more real to me in that moment than ever in my life, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in

everything by prayer...present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4)

*But I had clearly asked God
what to do. And He had
clearly spoken.
Forgive.*

My heart felt the protective guard of His peace. I could breathe. I didn't know how I could forgive, but I could breathe and I could trust God to show me how to forgive sometime eventually at least. And so, I called my husband and told him to come for Christmas morning. The season of healing and repair to our marriage that began that night continued on Christmas morning when I told Glen that I forgave him. He wept and we held strong for our young son and let him have a beautiful and memorable Christmas morning. The Gospel, brought by the angels means, "good news or good tidings." The angel that greeted the shepherds and announced the beautiful

truth of the birth of the promised Messiah said, "Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy..." This very Jesus spoke good tidings into my fearful, aching heart the night before. The fear and anguish in my heart gave way to healing and hope.

Do you see it? After reading and studying through Psalm 139 are you beginning to see the power of the truth of God? God's truth is the firm foundation I stood on during these times. God's truth, not the ache, not the pain, not the brokenness and sense of total loss...God knew me, loved me, had a plan for me...and all these truths were true for my husband as well.

It was this truth that saved me. This truth will save you too. Get to know the God of the Bible. Read it daily. Pray and continue to grow in your faith and understanding of God. It's the only reliable source of truth and hope you have.

*It was this truth that saved me.
This truth will save you too.*

You are loved and prayed for,

Jennifer Richmond



p.s. My heart is to connect with women and point them to the saving truth of Jesus. Please don't hesitate to call or email me if you would like to talk...or go out for lunch! I'd really enjoy that.

562.755.4964

Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Week Two

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

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Discussion Questions

June 19/20

Just for fun...

- If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
- What pets do you have or did you have growing up?

Think and share...

- One year from now, what habit or ability would you like to have mastered?
- Have you ever had to unlearn something like a bad habit, a way of thinking, a skill, etc? It could be a simple thing or something significant... Why did you and what prompted your desire to change?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study.

“Our True Source of Hope”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Our True Source of Hope”

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Two – June 19-25

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. Don't forget: You can join the study daily on our Facebook page or the podcast. www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen or www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes "Dwelling Richly"

~ This Week's Focus ~

The most important voice for you to hear and believe is God's. The most essential way to hear that begins by reading His Words for yourself.

Day One – Read Psalm 119:1-40

Psalm 119 is one of the most unique chapters in the Bible. That's clear enough reading it in English, but reading it in Hebrew is even more amazing. When you read it in Hebrew you see the beauty of the structure. Psalm 119 is divided into 22 sections: one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is composed of 8 verses and each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. It's not only beautifully written, it's got a purpose! It's special kind of poem that makes learning the word easy and you might have learned this way in school. This kind of poem is known as an acrostic. Each verse contains a special word pertaining to God's commandments, law, ordinances, word, judgments, statutes, precepts and decrees.

Over the next several days, as we study this Psalm, my heart is that you will come away with a renewed passion to be in God's Word and a bigger picture of who Jesus is.

1. From Psalm 119:1-40 Make a note of several verses you read that shows how King David* feels about God's word.

While studying, we want to see David as our inspiration and role model. Inspired by the Holy Spirit (Hebrew: the ruach chodesh), he wrote this Psalm over 3000 years ago and yet reading it today I feel that David could be sitting across from me sharing his heart. The Bible says that God called David a "man after His own heart." That is high praise and calls me to want to get to know David all the more through this Psalm.

**David is not named as the author. Some think it might have been the prophet Ezra. However, tradition and scholars tend to agree that David was, so for our study I'll be referring to King David as the author.*

2. David makes requests of God in verses 17-40. List several here:

3. What does this say about David's priorities and understanding of God's Word?

4. What did David do when he was discouraged? Write a verse from this selection that stands out to you. Consider committing it to memory.

Day Two – Read Psalm 119:41-72

5. David frequently writes that he is expecting God to keep His promise, remember His word, etc. Write one or more of those verses here:

6. What does Psalm 119:43 say about where David's hope is?

This is the verse where the word "hope" first appears, but as you can see from reading so far, much of the first 48 verses speak to our hearts with words that remind us of feeling hopeless. And where again and again does David find hope? God's Word. In fact, David so treasures God's Word that after 42 verses of recounting how deliberately he needs, wants, works for, memorizes, treasures, recounts, and obeys God's Word He asks God to not take – literally "snatch" – the "word of truth" from his mouth.

Does this strike you as odd? Why would he even be concerned that God do such a thing? Well, David's been through a lot – A LOT – and by "a lot" I mean serious sinful behavior.

7. Read Psalm 119:49-50

What a strong thought! From verse 49, write what David wants God to do and why. Then from verse 50 write from where David draws comfort:

|

Day Three – Read Psalm 119:13-104 & Psalm 51

8. The introduction in your Bible will give you a reminder about why David wrote Psalm 51. He had broken the word of God. He had sinned by coveting, murdering, lying, committing adultery. What does he say to God in verse 11?

|

What does he say in 51:15?

9. Before that in verse 11 he cried out for God NOT to cast him away or take His Holy Spirit, and later in Psalm 119:43 he pleads again, don't take this from me! What does this say about David's priorities? Write your thoughts here:

10. Write down the verses that show David's desperation for God's word:

|

Have you put your hope in God's judgments? Is what He has decided final enough for you? David had most definitely been on the receiving end of God's judgment. In fact, David and Bathsheba committed adultery, conceived a child, and part of God's judgment on their sin was that their child would die. Harsh and so painful! And yet, David can come before the Lord and say that he has "hope in your judgment." This hope is because of David's confidence in the righteousness of God. That is why we can hope in the Word of God. It is right. It is true. It is not going to fail us even when we fail Him.

Day Four – Read Psalm 119:105-136

11. In Psalm 119 we see at least FIVE verses where David repeats this phrase "I have put my hope in your word." Write Psalm 119:114:

12. David writes often of what he has done as well as what he wants God to do. List some of David's written expectations here:

13. On what basis do you think David makes requests of God? Are you willing to do the same when it comes to what you expect of God in your life? Explain:

14. Consider specific situations in your life right now that are troubling you. Using Psalm 119 as an example, how will you approach God with your desires in these areas?

Day Five – Read Psalm 119:131-176

15. Read Psalm 119:143-144 Think about a time of deep struggle, sadness, difficulty in your life. Rewrite these verses in your own words. Instead of “trouble and anguish” (ESV) name the specific life circumstance that you think of when you consider this verse. Instead of “your commandments” list a specific verse or verses from Psalm 119 that you have found delight in.

16. The phrase “according to” comes up frequently in these verses. List the “according to” phrases from today’s reading here:

17. What truths about God do these “according to’s” teach you?

18. How often does David praise God and for what reason? (119:164 ESV)

Based on what we’ve studied through Psalm 119, does this surprise you? Explain:

19. How will this Psalm change the way you worship? Pray? Prioritize your day? Offer counsel to a hurting friend?

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Weeks Three & Four

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Discussion Questions

June 26

Just for fun...

- What's your favorite color...
 - to wear?
 - of food to eat?
 - to decorate your home/room in your home in?

Think and share...

- What do you think are ways we unconsciously or consciously keep from being honest and transparent with one another?
- What benefits are there when women get real with one another with what they're going through?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through Psalm 119.

“Finding Joy in God’s Plan”

with Rachel Barsha

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com “Finding Joy in God’s Plan (6/26)”

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Three ~ June 26-July 2 ~ James Overview and Chapter One

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. The next five weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study in community:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964 or www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

~ This Week's Focus ~

*Persevering through trial and truly living out the Word of God is possible
when we are in relationship with Christ.*

Day One – Read James

Today, as we kick-off our James study, let's read and meditate on the entire book. It's only 5 chapters and can be read in one sitting. Take notes as you read. The remaining days of our study will break down each chapter and several verses for a closer look. But today is a straight read-through. Just like you would read through someone's letter – start to finish – we'll read through this letter from James. You wouldn't get a letter in the mail and read a few sentences from the middle, then jump to the beginning, then the end again – right? We want to engage in Scripture with the same approach. Let's understand this book as a whole before we dig deeper.

20. Who wrote this book of the Bible? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the author here:

21. To whom was it written? _____ (James 1:1)

Write any other notes about the audience here:

22. Read through the book of James and as you read take notes on the following page. Highlight key verses, write comments in the margin of your Bible, make a note of any questions you might have along the way. Highlight concepts, specific names, places, or people groups mentioned as well. We'll dig in together in our next day of study. For now, let's just read and grasp the tone and vision of James' letter as a whole.

- My Notes through James -

- Chapter One -

- Chapter Four -

- Chapter Two -

- Chapter Five -

- Chapter Three -

- More Notes -

Day Two – Read James chapter one.

1. How many imperative - command to do [this] - statements can you find in chapter one?
_____ (Hint: there are at least 12)
2. Highlight/Underline each mention of “trial”, “temptation”, “testing”, and “perseverance” in this chapter.
3. Highlight each imperative in your Bible and write two of them here either word for word or by paraphrasing it:

Example:

v. 2 *“Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds...” (word for word)*

v. 2 *“When all kinds of trials come my way, I need to be joyful!” (paraphrase)*

4. Of these command statements, which ones are pointing to the inner life - how we think and engage with ourselves and God - and which ones are pointing to the outer life – how we think and engage toward others? Categorize them here:

<i>Toward Self / God</i>	<i>Toward Others</i>

Day Three – Read James 1:1-8

There are four men named James in the New Testament. Which one wrote this letter? It is widely accepted by biblical scholars to be the half-brother of Jesus, also called “James the Just.” James had rejected Jesus as Messiah (John 7:5) until after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7) when Jesus appeared to him. Then in Acts and Galatians we see James active as a key leader in the growing church at Jerusalem. In Galatians 2:9 Paul refers to James as one of the pillars of the church along with Peter and John. As you read through James keep this background in mind. James, once a skeptic, perhaps a bitter half-brother, confused and maybe estranged in his relationship to Jesus before His resurrection, is now enthusiastically writing to teach and encourage others. Consider the huge shift in James’ heart and mind that must have taken place. Now he has written, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, a letter that has been read for over 2000 years by millions and millions of people. It influenced the thinking of the early church and still influences you and me today. Thank God for changed hearts! Thank God for James and his faithful ministry.

1. According to James 1:2-4, what should our response be when we encounter “trials of various kinds?” _____

Why? (Use the exact words from Scripture and then paraphrase them as well.)

2. Look up James 1:4 in several versions (ESV, NIV, KJV, etc.). Write this verse in your own words:

3. James 1:5 flows right from the final phrase “lacking in nothing” of verse 4. James keys in on something important that we are likely to lack. What is it? _____

4. How do we go about getting “wisdom?” Bullet point the approach to gaining wisdom – what to do and what not to do - in trial here:

5. What does this remind you about the nature and desire of God?

6. How will this impact the way you face trials today and in the future?

Day Four – Read James 1:9-18

1. Generally speaking, do “lowly” people think of themselves in an exalted way? What about “the rich?” Do the rich generally think of themselves with humility? Why or why not?

2. Considering James’ upbringing as the half-brother of Jesus, the son of a carpenter, do you think he was considered among the “lowly” or the “rich?” Explain:

3. What perspective has he gained in terms of the things that matter in life because of his upbringing and life experiences? (Consider his early rejection of Jesus, his conversion, and his current influence as a leader in the new church.)

4. Circle/Highlight/Underline the words “trial” and “test” in verse 12 and connect them with “trials” and “testing” in verses 1 and 2.

5. Where does temptation NOT originate? _____ (James 1:13)

6. Where DOES temptation originate? (James 1:14-15) _____ (two words)

7. Outline the progression of temptation as described in James 1:14-15

_____ away and _____ by own _____

Then _____ when it has

_____ gives birth to

_____ and when it is fully grown brings forth

_____.

For deeper study read Genesis 2:15-3:16 and see how the actions of Adam, Eve, and Cain match this progression of temptation.

8. We bring forth temptation unless we do what? (Consider all of James 1:2-12)

9. What does God bring forth? (James 1:16-18)

10. What will you pray for today based on what you’ve learned or been reminded of in James chapter one?

Day Five – Read James 1:19-27

1. It's been said that God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason. According to this passage, what is that reason?
|
2. What are we to do when we receive the Word of God, and how are we to receive it? (James 1:19-21)
|
3. What is happening when we are "hearers only" and not "doers of the Word?" (James 1:22-24)
|
4. Read carefully James 1:25-27 List and explain further what a "doer of the word" does and what will happen as a result of actually doing what one has heard:
|
5. James 1:26 give a very strong caution about our "religion" (what we say we believe) being totally worthless. What does James warn us about?
|
6. Also, since you've read the entire book of James, you know that this issue is going to come up again. What does James say later in this book about the tongue? Write a key verse here:
|

For deeper study: Do a word study on the word "tongue" in the Bible. Consider especially verses from Proverbs. Write a verse that will be an encouragement to you in this area of keeping your tongue under control.
7. How will this look in your life TODAY? In what way can you step it up in regards to not just hearing, but DOING God's Word in your life? Be specific and consider calling a friend to join you in this.
|

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Four ~ July 3-9 ~ James Chapter Two

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. The next four weeks we'll be reading and studying through the book of James.

Lots of ways to join the study:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964 or www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

~ This Week's Focus ~

Unless you're actually living out your faith by doing what God has commanded, your faith is dead.

Day One – Read James chapter two

1. Take note of familiar words and phrases that appear in this and in chapter one. Mark them (connecting each together) in your Bible and note them here as well:

|

2. Summarize the theme of James 2:1-13 in one sentence:

|

3. How does James 2:1-13 reveal the character of God in general and how He has shown Himself to you in particular?

|

4. Summarize the theme of James 2:14-26 in one sentence:

|

5. How does James 2:14-26 reveal the character and expectations of God?

|

6. In what way(s) can you be intentional in applying the teachings you have read in this chapter to your life today?

|

Day Two – Read James 2:1-7

1. What command does James open with in 2:1? Write it here:
|
2. What problem in conduct is James addressing in 2:1-3?
|
3. What scenario does James describe in these verses to help the reader picture the problem? How might that apply to your life as a follower of Jesus today?
|
4. What point in verse 7 does James make to support his admonition? Read Acts 11:26 for background:
|
5. Consider James' nickname – "James the Just." How do you see this passage as a possible explanation for why he was so named?
|
6. What does this teach you not only about the heart of James, but about the heart of God and His will for the life of the true believer?
|

Day Three – Read James 2:8-13

1. Who is the audience of the book of James? _____
2. What is the "royal law?" Write it here:
|

3. Considering James' immediate Jewish audience (we're the extended audience as Gentiles) how familiar do you think they would have been with this "royal law?" Read Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:25-28 then explain:
|
4. What did Jesus say about who are His true disciples in John 8:31?
|
5. The concept of mercy is addressed specifically over 100 times in the Bible, and countless times by application. What does James say about mercy in 2:13?
|
6. What does God say about mercy through the prophet in Micah 6:8? Write the verse here:
|
7. Compare this with Jesus' words in Matthew 9:9-13 which is an encounter Jesus had with the rich leaders (Pharisees), a tax collector (considered to be an unworthy sinner), and those watching. What does this tell you about the heart of Jesus and by extension, where our hearts should be?
|

For further study, read Matthew 7:1-20 and compare the content and concepts Jesus taught with what James is teaching here.

Day Four – Read James 2:14-17

1. This passage is centered on three rhetorical questions. Write them here in your own words:
|
2. Describe a scenario when something like what James is describing in this hypothetical situation in 2:16 might actually take place today:
|

3. Is James saying that this kind of faith is the basis for salvation? Consider Titus 3:4-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9 before writing your answer.

4. God's Word is clear: We **need to be saved** from our sins. We **can be saved** from our sins. How? Write the answers from each verse here:

Need to be saved - Romans 3:23

Can be saved - Romans 10:9

5. What is the evidence of someone who has been saved?

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 John 2:15

John 14:15

6. Are you sensing the balance of faith and works? Once someone is saved from their sins they are a follower of Christ – a Christian. It's not good deeds outweighing bad ones that leads to salvation, however, good deeds are the evidence of a saved life! Take a moment to illustrate this truth with words or by drawing it out. I'd love to read or see your thoughts on this. After you finish, why not send me a photo of your response? 562.755.4964 or Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

Day Five – Read James 2:18-26

1. James anticipates a response in 2:18-20 in the form of hypothetical statement that “someone” might give after reading the previous verses. What is this person’s basic argument?

For further study: Peter, who is also named as a “pillar” of the church like James, addresses this issue as well. Read 1 Peter 1:3-11.

2. What is James’ retort to this “someone” who is arguing that faith can be apart from works? (Hint: the final phrase of James 2:18) Complete the phrase here and highlight it in your Bible:

“I will _____ you my _____ by my _____.”

3. In 2:19 James goes on to affirm a central belief of the Jewish and Christian faith. In Jewish teaching, this affirmation is referred to as the “Shema.” Observant Jews recite this truth at least twice a day. Read and highlight in your Bible Deuteronomy 6:4 and write it here:

4. What is the demons’ response to this truth? _____ and _____
5. How does this statement about the demons affirm James’ key point (James 2:17)?

6. What is James’ question in verse 20?

7. How does James answer that question for the reader in verses 21-25?

8. How would you sum up the lesson from Abraham's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:8-19.

For further study on Abraham and this account, read Genesis chapter 22.

9. How would you sum up the lesson from Rahab's demonstration of faith and works?
Read Hebrews 11:31.

For further study on Rahab and this account, read Joshua chapter 2.

As we conclude this week's study, my prayer is that we who consider ourselves true followers of Christ would grow in the depth of our faith and broaden the reach of our faith as it touches the lives of those around us.

The lesson from Abraham is clear: if we believe in God, we will do what He tells us to do.

The lesson from Rahab is also clear: if we believe in God, we will help His people, even at our own expense."

~ David Guzik

- Notes -

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Five

James chapter Three

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Welcome!

We're glad you're here. Coffee Talk is the summer series for our Faith & Fellowship women's ministry at LMCC. Each week we meet and hear teaching from God's word as well as testimonies of women like you who have lived and moved through challenges and have found strength and hope in God and through His Word. We love to connect in person and online through social media. Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



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YouTube.com/c/JenniferGRichmond



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Discussion Questions

July 10/11

Just for fun...

- What was your favorite t.v. show growing up?
- What t.v. character are you most like?

Think and share...

- What is the easiest thing about your faith to you?
- What is the hardest?
- James 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* Share a time when you feel God answered this prayer for you.
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapters 1 & 2

“Saved By Grace”

with Cathy Wells

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

“My First Talk with God”

with Monica Chavez

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Five ~ James Chapter Three

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~ This Week's Focus ~

The words you speak are a reflection of your heart. Get wise with your words and your life by spending time filling your mind with the wisdom of God.

Day One – Read James chapter three

Read James 3:1-18 use the facing page to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture.

10. As you read, make a list of the metaphors James uses to help us picture the power of the tongue. Or, why not draw a little picture of each one? Either way, it's interesting to note how agile James is with these word pictures, don't you think?

11. Make note of any phrases or concepts that James uses here in chapter three that are familiar from earlier in chapters one and two:

- Notes from James 3:1-18 -

Day Two – Read James 3:1-4

1. What warning does James open with in this passage? When he says “we,” to whom do you think he is referring? (James 3:1)
|
2. Have you ever been a teacher in any capacity? If so, do you relate to the warning and the sense of responsibility that is greater for teachers? Share your thoughts:
|
3. Have you or someone you have known ever experienced hardship because of the words of a teacher you respected that turned out to be poor guidance or worse, blatantly wrong? Share your thoughts:
|
4. What an amazing goal to “not stumble in what [one] says.” Read Proverbs 10:19-21. What does this say about our words and the potential for trouble to you?
|
5. When James says “he is a *perfect* man,” he’s not saying we must be perfect, no one is perfect but God. What is he saying then about someone who does not stumble (sin) in what he says?
|
6. Does this seem attainable to you? Why or why not?
|
7. In what way do these verses point you to your need for a Savior in Jesus Christ?
|

Day Three – Read James 3:5-8

1. James 3:5 refers to the tongue as a _____ yet it does what? _____ Have you seen this to be true in your own life?

Explain:

2. Comparing the power of the tongue to a wildfire hits close to home for those of us raised in Southern California. Fire season is a real threat and comes every year with terrible loss of property and life. In James 3:6 what do you think James means when he says “setting on fire the entire course of life” and “set on fire by hell?”

3. James 3:7-8 warns that no “human being” can tame the tongue. Yet this passage is a reminder of the mandate given to Adam at creation that man was given dominion over the animals. If man is given dominion (Genesis 1:26) over something as untamable as wild animals – and yet they can be tamed – who can be given dominion over our tongues – and therefore we have hope for its taming? Consider James 1:16-18 and 26.

4. Read Psalm 19:1-14 How can one give dominion of their tongue to Jesus? Where does it start? List truths you find in this Psalm that point you to the right way of thinking that it takes in order for you to tame your tongue – what you read about who God is, what God does, what His Word is like, etc.:

5. Write Psalm 19:14 here:

Make this your prayer today.

Day Four – Read James 3:9-12

1. Read James 3:9. Write ways in which you do the following:

Bless our Lord and Father

Curse people

Confess any tendency you have to “curse people who are made in the likeness of God,” and ask God to help you live more like Jesus in this.

2. What metaphors (word pictures) does James use to illustrate the absurdity of blessing and cursing coming from the same mouth?

3. Read Luke 6:43-49. This is a bold and hard truth that Jesus is teaching – especially verse 49. It goes in line with James’ teaching in chapter three. Summarize this passage with the key points we should be living out in our lives today:

Day Five – Read James 3:13-18

1. How are we to show that we are truly wise? (3:13)

2. What did Jesus say about meekness? Read Matthew 5:5

3. What qualities does James set up as the opposites of “meekness of wisdom?” (James 3:14)

4. Compare James’ point in 3:14-15 with his teaching back in 1:17-18.

From whom do all good things come? _____ (1:17-18)

How did God bring us forth? _____ (1:17-18)

When we act boastfully with bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, what are we being false toward? _____ (3:14)

Where does this type of behavior come from? _____ (1:15)

5. How will this teaching impact your behavior today and in the future?

6. What does James say is the root of the issue in a situation where the behaviors of the people are defined by “jealousy and selfish ambition?”

7. Review James 3:13-18. Think of your family, coworkers, church groups. Consider the qualities James has outlined in these verses – godly and ungodly. From these verses, list the characteristics of each here and keep this in mind as you seek to engage wisely in each area of your life:

Wisdom from Above

Earthly, Unspiritual, Demonic

8. Write James 3:18. How can you be a person who “makes peace” in your life today?

Why not take the time to memorize James 3:18 today?

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Six

James chapter Four

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

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You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

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Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



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Discussion Questions

July 17/18

Just for fun...

- Share a memory of party you attended as a child or adult...A silly game? A fun theme? A great location?
- If you could invite any musician or performer to entertain at your birthday party, who would it be?

Think and share...

- [James 3:7-8](#) warns that no "human being" can tame the tongue. Do you agree? Why or why not? Consider backing up your answer with Scripture.
- What are some practical ways you've found helpful in curbing any tendency you have to let your tongue get the best of you...cussing, gossiping, sarcasm, belittling, etc.
- Read [Proverbs 15:1-2](#). Discuss how you have seen this to be true in your own life
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter three.

“What Prayer Can Do for You”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

- Recommended Reading -

Great non-fiction books by authors I love. Each one of these books has had a life changing impact on the way I think and how I view Scripture as well as how I live my life. These will help you in your understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as well as give you practical ways to improve your prayer life and gain understanding of your spiritual life in Christ:

- “Praying the Names of Jesus” and “Praying the Names of God” by Ann Spangler
- “The Helper” and “Adventures in Prayer” by Catherine Marshall
- “The Screwtape Letters” by C.S. Lewis
- “The Spirit of the Disciplines” by Dallas Willard
- “Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster
- “The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer

The following are amazing biographies that have inspired me and continue to inspire me. I can read and re-read these and always come away with new insights. Their stories will challenge the way you are living. You will never be the same:

- “The Hiding Place” by Corrie Ten Boom
- “God’s Smuggler” by Brother Andrew
- “7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness” by Eric Metaxas

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Five ~ James Chapter Four

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~ This Week's Focus ~

As followers of Christ, our lives should be characterized by total complete surrender to the Father and total transformation of our will.

Day One – Read James chapter four

Read [James 4:1-17](#) Use the next page or your Bible study journal/notebook to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. All through his epistle, James has used questions to help us think and grasp the point. List the questions he uses in this chapter: (There are at least 6)

What causes quarrels and fights? 4:1

Is it not that your passions are at war? 4:1

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? 4:4

Do you suppose it is to no purpose that he Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwelling in us? 4:5

But who are you to judge your neighbor? 4:12

What is your life? 4:14

2. Because you prayed before beginning your reading, God has answered your prayer as you read. I am confident of this. It's a prayer that He will always answer with "Yes!" Now, based on what you read, write a few thoughts about what really captured your heart and mind from these verses:

- Notes from James 4:1-17 -

Day Two – Read James 4:1-3

Read [James 4:1-3](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. As you read these verses, list the actions/behaviors that James calls out:

Quarrels, fights, murder, coveting, not asking

2. Maybe you relate to one or more of the sins listed in verse one? I know I do. Go back to question #1 and mark which one or more of the above you have done in your life. Be honest. (Don't worry. No one will be judging you.) Which one(s) have you **not** done?

(Women might possibly list "murder" which will be addressed in Question #3)

3. Read [Matthew 5:21-26](#). What does Jesus say about murder and hatred?

Hating someone is the same as murdering them in your heart.

What point is He making about the state of our heart versus our actions?

That what we think in our heart is as/or more important than our actions.

Guard our hearts!

4. Read [1 John 3:15](#). How do John's words echo Christ's from Matthew 5:21-26?

If you hate someone you are a murderer.

If you have hatred toward someone today, take a moment right now to pause with no excuses about their behavior or thoughts about how much they deserve it, and simply confess your hatred and ask God to search you and see if there is any offensive way in you ([Psalm 139:23-24](#)) and to give you a new heart – His heart toward that person ([Deut. 30:6](#))

5. There's that word "desire" again. James spoke of it directly in chapter one verses 14-15, alluded to our desires again in chapters two and three, and now he reminds us about our desires in verse two. What kind of desire is he speaking of in [4:2](#)?

Selfish desire, envy, covetousness

What **should** we desire? Begin with the following passages and as time permits, do a word study on "desire/s" and make note of what God teaches about what we should be desiring.

[Psalm 37:4](#)

Delight in the Lord – desires of your heart.

[Psalm 19:7-11](#)

Desire his Word

[1 Corinthians 12:31](#)

Desire the higher gifts

6. According to James 4:2-3, why don't we have what we desire?

Because we do not ask and when we do ask we ask with wrong motives - selfishness.

What do you think are examples of selfish motives in our prayer life? Consider any Scripture to back up your thoughts.

What do you think are examples of pure motives? What Scripture do you think supports your answer?

7. How should we pray then? Well, the disciples asked that question of Jesus, and Jesus answered. Read [Matthew 6:5-13](#) and [Matthew 6:33-34](#) then prayerfully consider how you are talking to God about what you want. Ask God to reveal any selfish motives you have. Ask Him to mature you in your prayer life and continue to make you more like Jesus who prayed, "not my will but Yours be done." ([Luke 22:42](#))

Day Three – Read James 4:4-6

Read [James 4:4-6](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. Ouch! What harsh word does James call the people? _____ Why?

(review 4:1-5) (*adulterous*)

Quarrels, fights, murder, coveting, not asking, asking w/out pure motives

2. Imagery of adultery was written throughout the Old Testament as God cultivated relationship with His chosen people. A simple word study will bring up scores of verses that relate to this. God wants an exclusive relationship with His people. What is the essential nature of an act of adultery?

Betraying one's spouse - you are supposed to be committed by vow and action to one spouse. Don't cheat on them with another person.

How then does adultery relate to the follower of Christ and how she behaves?

Consider [2 Corinthians 11:2](#) and [Revelation 19:7-9](#)

We, as believers/the Church are the Bride of Christ. We should be faithful to Him and not cheat on Him with worldliness.

3. Write James 4:4 in your own words. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

You are like unfaithful wives, flirting with the glamour of this world, and never realising that to be the world's lover means becoming the enemy of God! (J.B. Phillips translation)

4. What happens when we make "friends with the world" (in the sinful/ungodly sense)?

We make enemies of God. He is jealous for us like a faithful spouse would be.

5. Read [Exodus 20:5](#) (which is in a context that I'm sure you'll find familiar). Consider this verse now in light of James 4:5. Explain God's desire toward us and expectations of us as His faithful children in your own words. How serious does God take this?

God wants exclusive relationship with us. So much so that He placed it in His holy commands!

6. What does James says that God gives more of? _____ (*grace*)

7. To whom does God extend His grace? _____ (*the humble*)

8. Whom does God oppose? _____ (*the proud*)

9. How do you think James' focus on pride/humility relates to his earlier point about "friendship with the world/enmity toward God"?

It take a lot of pride to think that you can be friendly with the world and not lose your faithfulness toward God. Don't think so highly of yourself! Be humble. Submit to God. Honor Him above all. You cannot have both!

10. Extra Credit: What Old Testament verse is James quoting in James 4:6?

Proverbs 3:34

As you conclude, prayerfully consider ways in which you are prone to get friendly with the world in a way that might be demonstrating pride in yourself and your ability to "handle" it. Ask God to reveal to you any areas in your life in which you need to be more humble and faithful to Him.

Day Four – Read James 4:1-12

Read [James 4:7-12](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. List the command verbs in James 4:7-12 (Hint: there are at least 10)

Submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to god, cleanse your hands, purify your hearts, be wretched, mourn, weep, let laughter be turned to mourning, joy to gloom, humble yourself

Go back and connect the command/promise combinations from these verses.
(You do this...God will do that...)

2. Feeling the presence of the Devil and his influences? What should you do? (4:7b)

Resist and he will flee

3. Don't feel near to God? What should you do? (4:8)

Draw near to God

4. Read [1 Corinthians 10:13](#) What does God say about temptation and overcoming it?

He will give you a way of escape

5. This world has at best a casual attitude toward sin and at worst a flat-out denial of sin. Even worse is the way most approach God – even those in the church. But the Bible is clear; as followers of Christ what is the expected response if we are to be in the presence of God? Read [Isaiah 6:1-7](#) which relates how one of the most righteous men who ever lived responded when he was in God’s presence.

Total humility. Total recognition of unworthiness.

6. What does James’ command in 4:9-10 tell us about how seriously does God take sin?

7. How would you describe behavior that is the opposite of James 4:10? Consider James 3:14-16 and 4:1-4

Seeking to exalt yourself. Finding ways to promote yourself

8. Read James 4:11-12. In what context and under what motives are we NOT to judge one another?

Speaking evil against a brother

Remember the context of James’ entire admonition can be found in James 3:1-4:10.

9. This passage and similar ones in the Bible (Matt 7:1-3) have been used to insist that we should NEVER judge someone, implying a live-and-let-live attitude. Is this accurate to what God’s word actually says, though? Should we never judge and just be ok that everyone lives any way they want? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your response:

No. God has set his law in our hearts. Man knows right from wrong. We should be like John the Baptist and call out sin and remind people of their need for repentance. Luke 3:7-18

As you conclude today, prayerfully consider how accurately you are grasping the heart of God toward sin in your own life as well as how willing you are to live a life that helps others grasp the heart of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Day Five – Read James 4:13-17

Read James 4:13-17 after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. It’s only natural that we make plans for tomorrow, right? How should the mindset of a Christian be different than that of a worldly person be different in regards to how we plan?

2. In what way is James addressing another type of worldly thinking in these verses?
|
3. Read [Psalm 103:15-19](#) Write these verse in your own words:
|
4. Read [Proverbs 16:9](#) How does this proverb relate to James' admonition in 4:13-16?
|
5. What is the root sin James is addressing in this passage? _____
(pride)
6. What is the cure for that sin as addressed in James 4:10? _____
(humility before God)
7. So, how will that look then when you go to bed and think through your plans for the coming day?
|
8. Write James 4:17.
So, whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.
9. There are some "right things" based on Scripture that you know always to do, list several here:
Don't lie, steal, cheat, adultery, etc.
10. There are some "right things that you know in your heart you need to do in that moment. For example, seeing someone hurting at work or school and feeling that prompting in your heart to talk to them. How can you, based on the verses we have read this past week, be better at not just knowing the right thing to do but in doing them without hesitation? Write your thoughts here along with any verses that have been particularly helpful, and consider sharing this with your small group when we meet together at our next study.
|

- Notes -

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Seven

James chapter Five

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Welcome!

We're glad you're here. Coffee Talk is the summer series for our Faith & Fellowship women's ministry at LMCC. Each week we meet and hear teaching from God's word as well as testimonies of women like you who have lived and moved through challenges and have found strength and hope in God and through His Word. We love to connect in person and online through social media.

Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



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Discussion Questions

July 24/25

Just for fun...

- What event in history would you like to have witnessed in person?
- If you could live in any time period, which would it be?

Think and share...

- In James 4:4 we read that making friends with the world is making an enemy with God. That can be a difficult truth from the Word of God. How do you apply this truth in your own life?
- How have you seen that God "opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble?" (James 4:8)
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter four.

“Lost in Christ, Forever Found”

with Rebekah Cañamar

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com

- Notes -

-Notes-

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Six ~ James Chapter Five

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Join the online Bible study community, or study on your own. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

Lots of ways to join the study in community:

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen
- The recording any time → www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes, podcast app, or
- www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond Subscribe to the YouTube channel

~ This Week's Focus ~

Wait for the Lord's return and wait well.

Day One – Read James chapter Five

Read [James 5:1-20](#) Use the next page or your Bible study journal/notebook to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. As you read this chapter, make note of any commands, warnings, and points of encouragement in this chapter. Note also to whom they are given.
2. Which of these (commands, warnings, encouragements, etc.) from your reading do you find personally applicable? Why?

~ Notes from James 5:1-20 ~

- Notes from James 5:1-20 -

Day Two – James 5:1-6

Read [James 5:1-6](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. How would you summarize James' warning to his readers in 5:1-6?
He is warning the rich who have placed their treasure in their riches and have neglected the poor.
2. Compare this warning to [James 1:9-11](#) and [James 2:5-7](#). What similarities do you read? Differences?
Both are warnings to the rich about their priorities. Both speak against taking advantage of or being unfair to the poor.
3. James 5:3 is interesting in its boldness because of the properties of gold. What do you know about gold in particular that would make this a very strong statement about the uselessness of gaining worldly wealth while ignoring the poor?
Gold doesn't corrode. And yet, James is saying that it will. That's how useless it is to collect gold. Even gold is corruptible in God's eyes.
4. What does God's Word elsewhere have to say about...
... "laying up treasure?" [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

...living for self? [Luke 12:19-21](#)

...treatment of laborers? [Leviticus 19:13](#)
5. Read Genesis 4:9-11 and James 5:4. What does this say to you about the nature, plans, and heart of God - the Lord of hosts?
God hears from those who are abused. God cares. God will avenge.
6. James has a lot to say about the characteristic behaviors of a righteous person. Note each verse and what each says about how a righteous person behaves:
[James 1:20](#)
Not angry
[James 2:23](#)
Believes God and acts on that believe (Abraham)

[James 3:18](#)
peaceful

(continued)

[James 5:6](#) (Read [Matthew 5:38-42](#) for more understanding on not resisting.)

Doesn't seek revenge

7. How does [James 1:27](#) relate to our passage today?
8. Share through a prayer, poem, or drawing the heart of today's passage as it relates to your life today, any changes in your behavior you need to make, any priorities you have:

Day Three – James 5:1-12

Read [James 5:7-12](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. James opens and now closes this letter with a focus on “steadfastness” and “patience.” Review James 1:1-12 with James 5:7-12. What key points about these qualities does James make?

1:3 - testing of your faith produces steadfastness which makes us complete

1:12 - we'll be blessed if we are steadfast under trial

5:7 - be patient for the Lord's coming

5:8 - establish our hearts for the Lord's return

5:10-11 - Job was patient through great suffering

2. What are the righteous to do and what will be their reward? James 5:7 and [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)

Wait for the Lord...We will not grieve as those without hope. Jesus will right all wrongs

3. What is the connection James is reminding us of when he speaks of the farmer and waiting? Read also [Deuteronomy 11:13-14](#).
Be patient, but be obedient in your patience. Then God will bless you.
 4. How would you explain what James means when he says in 5:8 to “Establish your hearts...” Consider [1 Thessalonians 3:11-13](#) and [1 Peter 5:6-11](#)
Be firm in your faith. Trust God. Remain patient. Let patience produce in you're the good work
 5. James give his readers a sense of immediacy about the Lord, our Judge, returning soon. What does he warn against doing while we wait? What does he admonish us to be doing instead? James 5:9-11
Don't grumble...instead be patient like Job
 6. What eternal truths about God's character does James remind us of in 5:11? That God is _____ and _____
 7. Write [Exodus 34:6](#) – _____
 8. James wraps up this passage with an “above all” statement. What does he say we should NOT do? _____ Instead, we should...
Let our yes be yes
- How would you put this verse into use in your life TODAY?

Day Four – James 5:13-18

Read [James 5:13-18](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. What should we do in each of these circumstances? Answer according to James 5:13-18, but also include what you have read in previous chapters of James or elsewhere in Scripture. I've included some references for you to consider:

Suffering:

[Colossians 3:16](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-19](#)

(continued)

Cheerful:

[Romans 12:15-16](#)

[2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#)

Sick:

[Psalm 107:19-21](#)

Do you need prayer today? Are you sick? Suffering? If you do, please reach out. You are in a community of believers who will come alongside you and pray with and for and over you. Don't ignore the prompting to reach out for prayer. You can call me at 562.755.4964

2. In order for a prayer to have great effect, what does James say about the person who prays it?

3. If you are not seeing "great effect" from your prayer life, what then could be the reason? _____ How could you change that? Read [Psalm chapter one](#) for details:

4. Who does James use as his example of "the prayer of a righteous person" having great effect? _____ Do you think God will work through you in the way He worked through Elijah? Why or why not?

5. Martin Luther said of prayer: "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." and "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." —Martin Luther
How's your prayer life today? Effective? Weak? Consistent? Sporadic? How would you like it to be?

Consider how you can surrender this part of your life to the Father. Ask Him today for a more powerful and effective prayer life.

Day Five – James 5:19-20

Read [James 5:19-20](#)

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. Four times in James, he tells the reader “if anyone _____” Summarize each instance here:

James 1:23

James 1:26

James 3:2

James 5:19

2. In order to respond to any of these “if” situations, what must one be aware of?

3. This presupposes that we as followers of Christ are not only aware of our own heart issues but of one another’s as well. How can we be more aware of each today?

4. James 5:19 tells us to do what and to whom?

Bring someone back who wanders from the truth.

Someone among you...Christians

5. What are the two results of bringing someone back from wandering from the truth?

Read also [1 Peter 4:7-11](#).

Save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins

6. Consider what you would have to know or do in order to be effective and righteous in “bringing back a wanderer from truth.”

You would have to know the truth yourself

Make a judgment call

Act on it in love

7. Considering this world's popular notion that "truth is relative" or "your truth is as good as mine", what does it say about "truth" that someone could wander from it?

There is an objective truth as far as God is concerned. We as believers should know it well and be loving enough to guide someone back to it.

8. What did Jesus say about truth? John 14:6 and John 8:31-35

He is the truth

You will know the truth and it will set you free

Prayer, wandering from truth, sins and being spared from death...a lot of concepts in these few verses may leave you with more questions than answers or in need of more clarification. If you are wanting more, let's talk! You can reach me at Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com.

*You are loved
and prayed for.*



Coffee Talk

Week Eight

The Epistle of First Peter

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Welcome!

We're glad you're here. Coffee Talk is the summer series for our Faith & Fellowship women's ministry at LMCC. Each week we meet and hear teaching from God's word as well as testimonies of women like you who have lived and moved through challenges and have found strength and hope in God and through His Word. We love to connect in person and online through social media.

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Discussion Questions

July 31 / August 1

Just for fun...

- When you splurge on dessert, what's your absolute favorite?
- What's the best chain restaurant? (not fast-food)

Think and share...

- Read James 5:1-6. What issues regarding wealth does James address here? This was written 2,000 ago, do you think people have changed much in what they deal with? Why are these sins so destructive to our relationships with God and others?
- Read James 5:16. Does this seem hard to do or easy or just new and untried? How can we be more open to this approach as sisters in Christ?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter four.

“Walking in Faith”

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

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- Notes -

-Notes-

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Eight ~ The Epistle of 1 Peter

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Join the online Bible study community, or study on your own. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

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- www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond Subscribe to the YouTube channel

~ This Week's Focus ~

Living a life of faith begins at salvation, continues as we submit and is perfected as we persevere through suffering for the sake of the Gospel.

Overview:

- Day One – Read through 1 Peter
- Day Two – Chapter One
- Day Three – Chapter Two
- Day Four – Chapter Three – Consider completing in two sittings (AM/PM)
- Day Five – Chapter Four
- Day Six – Chapter Five

Day One – Read and Take Notes through First Peter

Read 1 Peter. Use the next pages to guide your reading. Write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

...Active Reading Notes...

Read the following eight prompts BEFORE YOU READ 1 Peter. Then, while you read, consider the following and write in your responses.

1. How would you describe the people who Peter wrote to? Include references for your answers:
 - a. Are they believers or unbelievers?
 - b. What issues are they facing?

c. Do you relate in any way? Explain:

2. What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: Look for repeated words and ideas.)

3. Now that you have read through the entire book, what would you say are Peter's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can. (5:12)

4. What specific ways does Peter call these people to live distinctly from their culture? In addition, how does Peter provide Christ as an example for such a lifestyle throughout the book?

5. As you read, keep a list here as well as marking in your Bible, the many ways Peter addresses his readers.

Example: 1:1 "elect exiles", 1:14 "obedient children"

2:2 "newborn infants"; 2:9 chosen race, royal priesthood, holynation, people for his possession, 2:11 "sojourners and exiles",

6. Who is the author of this epistle? (1:1) _____

7. What was he a witness to? (5:1) _____

8. Who wrote out this epistle for Peter? (5:12) _____

****Bonus****

Make note here or in the margin of your Bible of any Old Testament references Peter makes in his epistle. There are at least 20! Doesn't this make you crave a better understanding of the Old when you read them quoted in the New? It does for me!

1 Peter →	Old Testament	1 Peter →	Old Testament
<i>1Peter 1:16</i>	<i>Leviticus 11:44</i>		

Day Two – 1 Peter 1:1-25

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word (Psalm 119:18) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading. [Read 1 Peter chapter one](#). Review your notes and add any new insights, questions, or comments you have.

- To whom was Peter's epistle written? (1:1) _____
- What truth about the nature of God do you see in 1 Peter 1:2?
*according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, in the sanctification of the **Spirit**, for obedience to **Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood:
 May grace and peace be multiplied to you.
 God's triune nature.*
- What has God's great mercy caused to happen and how did He cause it? (1:3)
Born again to a living hope through the resurrection
- What are we born again to receive (describe it) and where is it kept? (1:4)
We receive an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading kept in heaven
- How does Peter describe the testing of our faith? (1:7)
so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

6. In what ways is the testing of our faith in trials similar to the testing of gold in fire? (1:7)
 Read [James 1:3](#) and [1 Corinthians 3:13](#)
We will be tested and that testing will reveal if we are truly disciples
7. Peter was a first-hand witness to Jesus – His life, miracles, death, resurrection, and appearances after His resurrection. The “elect exiles” (1:1) to whom he is writing had never seen Jesus in person (1:8). What does he say about them and how they have responded to Jesus? Do you relate to them? How so?
 “You do have not seen Him...yet you:
Love him, believe in Him, rejoice with joy inexpressible, obtaining the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls
8. From 1 Peter 1:3-12, summarize the basics of the Gospel of Christ – the good news of our salvation in Jesus Christ. Use the opening phrase “We have...” or “We are...” to help you. This will be a helpful exercise not only for you and your personal confidence in salvation, but also in sharing with others the wonderful gift they can have as a Christian.
For example: We have new birth (v3)
We have a living hope (v3)
We have an incorruptible, undefiled, unfading inheritance (v4)
We are guarded through faith and kept by the power of God (v5)
Our salvation is ready to be revealed in the last time (v5)
We are temporarily grieved (v6)
We are subject to trials so our faith can be tested (v7)
We have not seen Jesus, but we love Him, believe in Him and rejoice with joy (v8)
We have a salvation that the prophets had prophesied about (v10)
We have this good news that was preached by the HS (v12)
We have what the angels longed to look upon (v12)
9. How does Peter describe the life that we, as followers of Christ, are called to live? Write key words and phrases from 1 Peter 1:13-25. Could you summarize it in one word?
v13 prepare our minds for action, be sober minded, set our hope on grace
v14 be obedient, don't be conformed to the passions of our former ignorance
v15 be holy
v17 call on Him as Father, conduct ourselves with fear
v18 know where we came from
v19 know where we're going (imperishable inheritance)
v22 purify our souls by obedience to truth, love with sincere brotherly love, from a pure heart
10. Read 1 Peter 1:24-25. What is the “good news that was preached to you”? Highlight this verse in 1 Peter as well as [Isaiah 40:6-8](#).

"The Word of the Lord remains forever." From 1

11. As a child of God, you are redeemed. You don't have to pay the penalty of your sin. Jesus paid the ultimate price for your sins! How does this fact motivate you toward holy living?

****Interesting to Note****

The Greek phrase Peter wrote in 1:13, "preparing your minds for action" is literally translated: "girding up the loins of your mind" and is a word picture used only this one time in the Bible. Read [Exodus 12:11](#) where God instructs His people how they are to eat that first Passover in a manner of total readiness to get out of Egypt because of God's impending deliverance. In the time of Peter's writing and as far back as they could remember, men and women wore tunics. Tunics were cinched about the middle by a belt or girdle. They were comfortable and cooling in the heat of the land, but you can imagine that the tunic would get in the way when fighting or even completing chores. For example, when ancient Hebrew men had to battle or escape persecution they would lift the base of their tunic and tuck it into their belt or tie it in a knot to keep it off the ground. Now they basically had a pair of shorts that allowed them to move. So, saying, "gird up your loins" was to tell the people to get ready for hard work or battle. Consider Peter's interesting and descriptive phrase here. He is telling us to do the same with our mind. Get ready for battle! Don't let anything hinder you! As you continue through 1 Peter, notice other ways he connects how God's people were (Old Testament) to how God's people now are (New Testament.)

Day Three – 1 Peter 2:1-25

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word (Psalm 119:18) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading. [Read 1 Peter chapter two](#). Review your notes from day one, and add any new insights, questions, or comments you have.

1. Peter uses the metaphor of an infant craving milk to describe how Christians should be. He also sets apart five negative behaviors from how one who has "tasted that the Lord is good" should behave. Summarize his point from verses 1-3 and write out the five negative behaviors:

Summary:

You used to live like this, but you are like newborns who've tasted the good life and you would never go back.

Five negative behaviors:

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
4) _____ 5) _____

Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander

2. Highlight [1 Peter 2:2-3](#) and [Psalm 34:8](#) in your Bible (Continued on the next page)
3. If someone has **genuinely** "tasted and seen that the Lord is good", do you think it is possible for them to let that go or reject God? Why or why not? (Consider [Hebrews 6:4-6](#) if you're not sure.)

*No· and if they do seem to let it go, then they never really did taste it
Hebrews 6:4-6*

4. Peter reminds the reader that Jesus is what? (2:4-8) _____

The cornerstone

5. How do those who “do not believe” respond to Jesus?

They rejected Him,

6. To the unbelievers, what does Jesus become? (2:8)

A stone of stumbling, a rock of offense

In contrast, how does God see Jesus? (2:4, 6a)

Chosen and precious

7. Whom does the “but you” refer to in 2:9? (Hint: Read 1 Peter 1:1) _____

exiles

8. How does Peter describe them (4 ways) and what their purpose is? (2:9)

You are a...

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Your purpose is that you may...

Proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness

9. Peter takes care to remind his readers who they were and where they’ve come from and compares that with who they are now, what they have, and where they’re going. From [1 Peter 2:1-12 & 25](#) write out some of these distinctions:

Who We Were	Who We Are Now	Where We Are Going

10. In our flesh (when our lives are ruled by our sinful desires), our lives are characterized by what traits and behaviors? Use some listed in this chapter and any of your own thoughts as well:

11. Peter lays out a different life for the true servant of Christ in [2:13-19](#). Write out the behavior traits that mark the life of a Christian from these verses:

Some verses are packed with several admonitions· Don’t forget any! ☺

v13 Be subject to every human institution

- v15 *Do good so you will put to silence the ignorance of foolish people*
- v16 *Live as people who are free, Don't abuse your freedom for selfish gain*
- v17 *Honor everyone, love the brotherhood, fear God, Honor the emperor*
- v18 *be subject to masters with respect*
- v19 *endure sorrows while suffering unjustly*

12. How has Christ shown us by His example how we are to live? [1 Peter 2:21-25](#)

For further understanding of who Jesus was and is for us, read [Philippians 2:5-11](#). Peter weaves the teachings from Isaiah's prophetic description of Jesus the Messiah in the final words of this chapter. Read [Isaiah 53:5-9](#) and highlight this passage in your Bible as a definitive prophecy fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Day Four – 1 Peter 3:1-22

Today's lesson is longer than usual and you may want to take it in two sittings. Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word (Psalm 119:18) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading. [Read 1 Peter chapter three](#). Review your notes from day one, and add any new insights, questions, or comments you have.

~Part 1~

1. Review: To whom was this epistle (letter) address?
| Believers or Non-Believers
2. Therefore, when Peter addresses "wives" in 3:1, what kind of wives is he talking to?
| Believing wives or Non-Believing wives
3. Read 1 Peter 3:1-2, 4. In what way is he admonishing believing wives to "win" their husbands? (Review chapter 2 for more details on this way of life.)
| *By their conduct*
4. Contrast and summarize the appearance/behaviors of "adorned" women – The "external" vs "hidden person."
| *Dressing up to impress by outward appearances*
| *Gentle, quiet spirit – precious in God's sight*
5. In what way is he admonishing believing wives to NOT "win" their husbands? (1 Peter 3:3)
| *By they way they adorn themselves*

6. How does God feel about the woman with a gentle and quiet spirit? (3:4)
Precious in God's sight.
7. Who else has been described as "precious" to God? (1 Peter 2:4) _____
8. How are women who "hope in God" adorned? (1 Peter 3:5-6)
By submitting to their own husbands, calling him lord, do good, do not fear anything
 Is there any part of you that resists this concept? Explain.
Yes. I don't like my husband and his will sometimes. It goes against my nature to submit. I want my own way. I'm fearful that his way won't be God's way.
9. What is Peter's admonishment to the husbands? Note that he begins the section with what word: _____ which implies what?
Likewise - implying they need to have the same attitude of submission.
 Outline the two admonishments and the rational/warning (the "or else" statement if you will) to husbands in 1 Peter 3:7
Live with your wives in an understanding way
Show honor to the woman
Or else, your prayers will be hindered.
10. Read 1 Peter 3:8. "Finally" is a word that signals what to the reader?
Here's the summary of all that I've been saying

~ Part 2 ~

11. Read 1 Peter 3:8-16 Summarize by listing the distinct behaviors Peter is asking "all of you" (that means us too) to have:
Unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, humble mind, not vengeful, bless others, suffer for righteousness, have no fear, honor Christ, be prepared to answer why you have such hope, be gentle, respectful, good conscience.
12. How would you say that these behaviors stand in contrast to the way the "world" behaves at home or in the workplace and the way the obedient Christian does?
The world is literally motivated by the exact opposite behaviors. An obedient Christian should exemplify all of these.
13. What are we to do with Christ in our hearts? (3:15)
Hint: Read this in several versions to help with clarity.
Honor Christ as holy in our hearts
14. Why would anyone "ask you for a reason for your hope"?

Because, in spite of all that you are going through you are of high moral and spiritual behavior when you should, by all rights, be all the opposite.

15. What distinction in “suffering” does Peter make in 3:17 and in 2:20?

One is suffering for doing good and the other is getting punished for doing evil.

16. Memorize 1 Peter 3:18 as one of the most succinct descriptions of purpose and plan for Christ's death and resurrection. Write it here then paraphrase it:

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”

*Remember that Christ the just suffered for us the unjust, to bring us to God. That meant the death of his body, but he came to life again in the spirit.
(Phillips)*

17. Read 1 Peter 3:9-22. How does baptism relate to Noah being spared in the ark?

Noah was spared for his obedience and faith. The water is a symbol of that sparing. What drowned the others saved him.

18. What did Jesus do after he had resurrected and was “in the spirit?” (3:19)

He proclaimed to the spirits in prison

Why? (v20)

Does this mean they (the ones He proclaimed to) were given a second chance to repent? Explain. (Read [Hebrews 9:27](#) for refresher on the foundational truth taught in God's Word about what happens after we die.)

No. we are given one chance. After we die comes the judgment.

19. Does baptism save us? Explain. (Keep in mind the context of this passage that Peter is addressing believers who are being persecuted, admonishing them to remain obedient, and reviewing with them the truth – like you just did in #16 – of the resurrection of Christ.)

No. Baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus.

If you have completed this entire lesson, congratulations. It was a doozy! This is arguably one of the most discussed chapters in the Bible for it's challenging statements. I'd love to hear from you about your thoughts on this portion of our study. You can email me at jennifer@lamiradadchurch.com . If you have any questions or comments about what we've read and studied today, I'd love to hear from you.

Day Five – 1 Peter 4:1-19

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word (Psalm 119:18) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are

reading. [Read 1 Peter chapter four](#). Review your notes from day one, and add any new insights, questions, or comments you have.

1. What are we to do since “Christ has suffered in the flesh?”
Arm ourselves with the same way of thinking
2. What is this “way of thinking” that Christ had? Consider 1 Peter 2:21 and [Philippians 2:1-8](#)
Suffer for Christ, don't think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Be humble as Christ was humble, submit to the will of the Father
3. What does Peter mean in verse 1 when he says that “he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin”? Is he saying that if we suffer we are now sinless? Consider the following to support your answer:
[Ecclesiastes 7:20](#); [Romans 6:5-7](#); [1 John 1:8-9](#); [3:9](#)
No, we are still sinners, yet we are being made like Christ. We are being sanctified through our righteous suffering
4. How do the true followers of Christ “surprise” the rest of the world by their behaviors and what will they ultimately do with what they have seen in you? (4:4-6)
They are surprised because you don't act the way of the flesh. They will give an account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
5. Read 1 Peter 4:6
Considering the final phrase of this verse, who are “those” who are dead?
 Believers or Non-Believers
How have those who are dead been judged? _____
How will they then live? _____
So, is this verse referring to dead sinners getting a second chance or to believers who, having suffered, are alive in the spirit? Explain:
These are believers who are now alive in the spirit.
6. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 How should the knowledge that the “end or all things” is at hand influence us as believers?
We should be self-controlled, sober minded, loving one another, show hospitality, no grumbling, serve, be good stewards,
7. Note Peter’s admonishment to behave in a particular way for “the sake of your prayers” and relate this to his earlier admonishment to husbands in 3:7. What does this tell you about the impact of our behavior on our prayer life?
Our bad behavior can hinder our prayers
(Continued on the next page)
8. How should one who speaks and one who serves behave? (4:11)
One who speaks as one who speaks oracles of God
One who serves serve by the strength of God.

How will this reminder impact the way you speak or serve in the future?

9. How does God view suffering? (1 Peter 4:12-19)

10. How should Believers respond in suffering? Consider also James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:7

11. Have you been surprised by a trial in your life? If so, how did you respond at the time?

How would you respond differently based on your studies through 1 Peter?

Why not reach out to a friend for prayer and accountability in this. Close your time in prayer and ask God to make you more like Christ in this area. Then ask a friend to hold you accountable for growing in this way. Pray with someone who you can trust and who will be like-minded in your desire to “honor Christ the Lord as holy” in your heart today.

Day Six – 1 Peter 5:1-14

Before you read, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word (Psalm 119:18) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading. [Read 1 Peter chapter five](#). Review your notes from day one, and add any new insights, questions, or comments you have.

1. How are the elders to lead the flock?

Like a shepherd, exercising oversight willingly not for gain, with humility, by example

2. Who is the Chief Shepherd? _____ What are some ways we've seen His example?

3. How are the younger ones to behave?

4. Compare 1 Peter 5:4 and James 1:12. What does the crown of glory refer to?

5. Compare 1 Peter 4:1 and 1 Peter 5:5b. We are to “arm” ourselves and “clothe” ourselves. How are they different? What visual imagery does this bring into your mind? Write or draw a picture to illustrate your understanding of these two verses and our life as believers:

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6. How does the devil’s behavior compare to the believer’s? (1 Peter 5:8-9)

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7. Compare James 4:7-10; 2 Corinthians 11:14, and 1 Peter 5:9. From these verses and any others the Lord brings to mind, write an action plan in regards to the devil’s strategy in your life:

|

8. What four specific promises does Peter give those who “suffer a little while?”

God will:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

9. Compare the role/rule of Satan and that of “the God of all grace” (5:8-11)

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10. What a great time together in the Word we’ve had. Take a moment to review 1 Peter and write here a key verse that has been helpful and encouraging to you in your daily walk the Lord:

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*You are loved
and prayed for.*

