

A #Hack4Faith Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment

The Letter of James

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing." James 1:4

Discussion One: Group introductions, historical context/occasion, and word studies in James 1:1.

1. Group Introductions:

- a. Come prepared to share up to 3-minutes about yourself. Your name, career field, the thing you like to do most outdoors, and what are you expecting from this study in James?

2. Discussion Scenario:

- a. As with any email sent, there is a reason that gives it purpose. So it is with the letters that are recorded for us in the New Testament. James had a reason to write his letter -- a reason rooted in the day-to-day life issues his recipients were facing. Although our life context may not be the same as James's hearers, there are life principles to be extracted for our lives as well. Let's discover the historical context and purpose for James' writing and discuss its application for our lives today.

3. Historical Context/Occasion:

- a. Read, [James - Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary - StudyLight.org](#), sections: 1. *Recipients, Author and Time of Writing* and, 2. *Subject and purpose of writing*. (There's lots of ads on this site, just scroll past them.)
 - i. The writer of the letter:
 1. What New Testament person named James wrote this letter?
 - ii. The recipients of the letter:
 1. Who are they and where are they located?
 - iii. The purpose of the letter:
 1. What's the purpose for this letter?

4. Word Studies:

- a. Read James 1:1, [James 1:1 ASV - James, a servant of God and of the Lord - Bible Gateway](#).
- b. Slave/Servant Gk. [Strong's Greek: 1401. δούλος \(doulos\) -- a slave \(biblehub.com\)](#)
 - i. Scroll down to/read *HELPS Word-studies* and *Thayer's Greek Lexicon* #1.b.
 1. What are the rights of a slave?
 2. What is the purpose of a slave?

3. How can being a *doulos* of God and the Lord Jesus Christ bring the highest honor to being a slave/bond-servant?
- ii. Re-write verse 1 in your own words expanding the word "slave/servant" into its broader meaning to you.
- iii. Additional study reference but not a "required" reading, servant vs. bond-servant - [Is there a difference between a "servant" and a "bond-servant"? – Evidence for Christianity](#)

5. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b. Being genuine -- what two actions can you take this week as a *doulos* of the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - i.
 - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer as a *doulos* to your Lord Jesus Christ.

Acknowledgement: Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.