

DISCOVER

INSIDE ISSUE 7: JAMES, EXODUS, REVELATION, JOHN

1 Find a time when you can read the Bible each day



2 Find a place where you can be quiet and think



4 Ask God to help you understand what you read



3 Grab your Bible and a pencil or pen



5 Read today's Discover page and Bible bit



6 Pray about what you have read and learned



We want to...

- Explain the Bible clearly to you
- Help you enjoy your Bible
- Encourage you to turn to Jesus
- Help Christians follow Jesus

Discover stands for...

- Total commitment to God's Word, the Bible
- Total commitment to getting its message over to you

Team Discover

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How to use Discover

Here at Discover, we want you at home to get the most out of reading the Bible. It's how God speaks to us today. And He's got loads of top things to say.

We use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible. You'll find that the NIV and New King James Version are best for doing the puzzles in Discover.



The Bible has 66 different books in it. So if the notes say...

Read James 3 v 1

...turn to the contents page of your Bible and look down the list of books to see what page James begins on. Turn to that page.

"**James 3 v 1**" means you need to go to chapter 3 of James, and then find verse 1 of chapter 3 (the verse numbers are the tiny ones). Then jump in and read it!



Here's some other stuff you might come across...

WEIRD WORDS

Trimplegraw

These boxes explain baffling words or phrases we come across in the Bible.

Think!



This bit usually has a tricky personal question on what you've been reading about.

Action!



Challenges you to put what you've read into action.

Wow!



This section contains a gobsmacking fact that sums up what you've been reading about.

Pray!



Gives you ideas for prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Don't be embarrassed! You can pray in your head if you want to. God still hears you! Even if there isn't a Pray! symbol, it's a good idea to pray about what you've read anyway.



Coming up in Issue 7...

James: Fantastic faith

Ever blurted something out and then instantly wished you hadn't?

Yup, me too.

The book of James has loads of great advice for keeping control of our tongues. James wrote his letter to Jewish Christians just a few decades after Jesus returned to heaven. James says that when Jesus changes you on the inside, that should change everything you say (and do) too. And James isn't afraid to use some strong words to get his point across! From conflict to complaining, this is one you definitely don't want to miss.

Exodus: God rules, OK?

We join the Israelites in the desert for the final instalment of Exodus. But this is no fun camping trip (although there is a *very* special tent involved...).

God has rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, looked after them on their journey, and is leading them to a brilliant new home in the promised land. Now God gives them rules to help them live the best way — HIS way.

Trouble is, the Israelites are TERRIBLE at keeping them! And we're just the same. So Exodus is a great reminder of how much we need God's forgiveness too.

Revelation: Jesus revealed

It's pretty easy to find the book of Revelation in your Bible — because it's right at the very end!

Revelation means revealing something. God gave John (one of the twelve disciples) loads of strange visions: we'll read about thrones, lampstands, scrolls, colourful horses, earthquakes, trumpets, angels, beasts, a lamb and a dragon! But really it's all about JESUS!!

Revelation tells us crucial stuff that is going to happen, and also stuff that has happened and is happening now! We'll see that God is in total control, and even get an exciting glimpse of what heaven is like!

John: Unbeatable love

If you knew you only had 24 hours left to live, what would you do with them? Only the things that were really important to you, right?

Jesus used the night before he died to do a *lot* of talking — and this stuff is *super* important. Jesus wanted to tell his disciples why he needed to die, and reassure them about what would happen after he was gone. One of his disciples, John, wrote it all down so that we can listen in too!

**Turn the page to
get started...**

James: Fantastic faith

James
3 v 1-6



2000 years ago James wrote a letter to Christians, telling them how they could live for God in an ungodly world.

It's great for Christians today too. We started reading James in the last issue of Discover. So let's pick it up halfway through...

Ridiculous riddle

We all have one.

It's quite small but affects the whole of our lives.

It helps us to make people smile or upset them.

What is it?

Read James 3 v 1-5

What's the answer?

I'll accept mouth as a right answer too. James says that the tongue is like a ship's rudder.

It's very small but controls a large and important thing — us.



Think!

Have you got your tongue under control?



the first thing that comes into your head?

hurtful things about people?

things that you know are wrong?



Read verse 6

What else is the tongue like?

Just like fire, our words can cause lots of damage. They can hurt people, mess up friendships and have a huge effect on our lives. James says that the devil tempts us to say wrong things. So we need God's help to use our tongues in the right way!

Think again!

What bad things have you said recently?

WEIRD WORDS

Stumble

Mess up and let God down

Corrupts

Messes up

In check

Under control

Pray!



Say sorry to God for those things. Ask God to help you think before you speak. Ask him to help you to say things that please Him.

Tongue-taming time

James
3 v 7-12



James is telling us how dangerous our tongues can be.

What we say is so important.

WEIRD WORDS

Curse

Say bad things about someone

Made in God's likeness

Humans show something of what God is like!

Salt spring

Salty water springing from underground

Read James 3 v 7-8

Do you think you could tame a vicious snake or wild animal if you suddenly met one?

YES/NO _____

Probably not! James says it's even harder to tame our tongues. We try not to offend our parents, but we just lose control and let it out. Or we decide to stop swearing, but when we're with our friends, we just can't help it.

Think!

But God can help us tame our tongues! In what ways do you mess up with your words?



Pray!

Now ask God to help you tame your tongue so you stop doing those things. It could take a long time, so keep asking!



Read James 3 v 9-12

Some people say they're Christians yet they often swear, tell dirty jokes, or say unkind things to people.

If you're a Christian, should you be saying these things?

YES/NO _____

A fresh-water spring always gives fresh water

A fig tree always produces figs, not other fruit

So a Christian should always say _____ things



Wow!

But Christians do still mess up and say stuff we shouldn't. When we do, we need to say sorry to God and ask Him to help us sort it out.

Think & pray!

What about you? What sort of things do you say? Maybe you want to pray again for God to change you inside and help you say good things that are pleasing to Him.

Wise words

James
3 v 13-18



WEIRD WORDS

Humility

Putting other people first

Harbour bitter envy

Stay jealous

Selfish ambition

Putting yourself first

Unspiritual

Not godly

Disorder

Chaos, mess

Submissive

Obedying God

Mercy

Forgiveness

Good fruit

Good deeds

Impartial

Fair

Sincere

Not fake

Righteousness

Godliness

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | C | P | D | W | V | A | U | F | N |
| E | O | G | S | I | N | C | E | R | E |
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| L | T | B | B | V | I | C | S | H | Z |
| J | E | A | L | O | U | S | H | P | J |

Do you think you're wise?

YES/NO _____

Read James 3 v 13

James says if you're really wise, you'll show it by serving God, doing good deeds and putting others first. James says there are two kinds of wisdom: **earthly** wisdom (fake) and **godly** wisdom.

Read verses 14-16

Find words in the wordsearch to show what *earthly wisdom* is like.

Earthly wisdom

J _____

B _____

S _____

E _____



Earthly wisdom

Putting yourself first

Having bitter thoughts

Getting jealous of people

These things happen all the time.

But this is earthly wisdom and comes from the devil (v15). We should try to cut these things out.

Read verses 17-18

Godly wisdom

P _____

P _____

C _____

S _____

Godly wisdom

Putting others first

Forgiving people

Peacefully sorting things out

Doing good deeds

These things are **truly wise**. Real wisdom comes from heaven (v17). God gives it to us — so we can ask Him for it!

Pray!



Ask God to make you wise. Ask Him to help you be less selfish, more pure, loving, forgiving and considerate.

James 4 v 1-6



*Fighting talk
today from James.*

WEIRD WORDS

Covet

Wanting someone else's stuff

Wrong motives

Selfish reasons

Adulterous

They claimed to be God's people but loved the world and lived for themselves

Scripture

Old Testament

Enmity

Being at war

Grace

God gives us far more than we deserve

Sort it out!

Read the verses and fill in the spaces to reveal what James is teaching us today.

Read James 4 v 1

**Your quarrels and fights
come from your _____**

Do you argue with friends because you're selfishly putting yourself first?

Read verse 2

**When you want something,
you fight and covet. You
don't get it because _____**

Do you argue when you don't get your own way?

Do you long for stuff that other people have?

Do you ask God for the things you need?

Read verse 3

**When you ask God, you
don't receive because you
ask with _____**

We shouldn't ask God for nice stuff we selfishly want, like a new bike. We should ask Him for things that **please Him**, like becoming more loving.



If you really **need** a new bike, ask God for one, but don't get selfish and greedy.

Read verse 4

**Anyone who is a friend
of the world becomes**

We have to choose between living the world's selfish, sinful way, or living God's way.

Read verses 5-6

**God shows _____
to the _____**

It's really hard to be unselfish and live God's way. But God lovingly helps us turn away from sin and serve Him more.

Pray!



Ask God to help you put others first, not argue so much, and not long for stuff you don't have. Ask Him to help you turn your back on your selfish ways so that you really live for Him!

Clean your heart

James
4 v 7-10



Look back at
yesterday's
Discover page.

If you're like me,
you'll be feeling
bad for putting
yourself first
instead of God.

WEIRD WORDS

Submit yourselves

Let God be in control

Purify your hearts

Get rid of wrong
stuff in your life

Double-minded

Trying to live for
themselves as well as
for God

Grieve/mourn

Be upset

But James knows exactly what we
need to do...

Read James v 7-10

*Pretty tricky to understand, eh?
Use the words down the centre
to fill in the gaps. Then read the
explanation below.*

S _____ yourselves
to God (v7). Change
your l _____
into c _____ (v9).
H _____ yourselves
before the **L** _____ and he
will l _____ you up (v10).

1. ADMIT to God that you've
done wrong.

Tell Him how sorry you are and
how bad you feel for letting Him
down.

R _____ the
d _____ and he will
flee from y _____ (v7).

2. DON'T GIVE IN to the devil's
temptations. Fight against doing
wrong. Keep living God's way
and the devil will one day give up
on you. In the end, God will win
and the devil will lose!

Come n _____ to **G** _____
and He will c _____ near
to you (v8).

come crying devil God hands hearts Humble laughter lift Lord near purify Resist Submit Wash you

3. COME NEAR TO GOD. Just
going to church and appearing to
be a Christian isn't enough. We've
got to actively try to live God's
way. We've got to obey Him,
spend more time talking to Him
and reading the Bible!

W _____ your h _____
and p _____ your
h _____ (v8).

4. TURN AWAY from the wrong
stuff you do and turn to Jesus. He
died to make sinful people clean.
We wash our **hearts** when we
trust in Jesus and live for Him.



Pray!

It's all tough stuff to do. We need
God's help. Read through the
explanations again and ask God
to help you do those things. Then
do them!



Don't judge or grudge

James
4 v 11-12

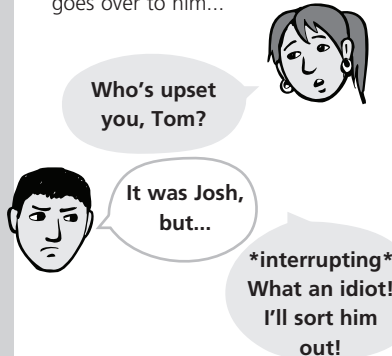


Are you sitting comfortably?

Well you won't be for long because I want you to answer an uncomfortable question...

What nasty things have you said about people recently?

Tom and Josh are having a play fight, but Tom gets hurt and goes off to sulk. Emma, who likes to get involved in things, spots Tom and goes over to him...



So Emma tells her friends how nasty Josh is and they ignore him and give him a hard time.

Read James 4 v 11

In our story, who was slandering someone else?

Who was setting themselves up as a judge?

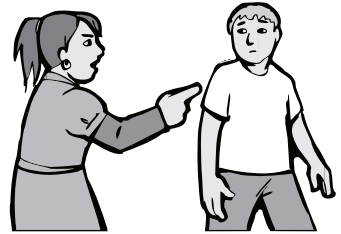
Of course the answer is Emma. She was so busy thinking how wrong Josh had been, yet she was the one most at fault.



Think!

Do YOU ever say nasty things about other people? Things that you would hate to be said about you?

YES/NO _____



Read verse 12

Who has given laws to say what is right and wrong? And who will judge everyone at the end of the world?

Only God decides what is right and wrong. Only God is perfect. Only God can judge people. So we've got to stop judging others!

Pray!

Say sorry to God for the times you've slandered and judged others. Ask Him to help you say positive things about people, and not negative stuff.



WEIRD WORDS

Slander

Say untrue things about someone

The law

The way God wants us to live

**James
4 v 13-17**



What are some of the things you plan to do before the end of the year?

Mist opportunity

Read James 4 v 13-14

Don't worry, James isn't saying it's wrong to make exciting plans! He's talking about people who **ignore God** in their plans.

What does James say we're like? (v14)

Wow!

Mist or smoke doesn't last for long. And, compared to God, we're not around on earth for very long. But God has always existed and will always exist. He's in control. We're not. So we should look to God when we're making plans.



Before



After

Read verses 15-16

Decide whether each sentence is the right or wrong attitude to making plans. Circle the letters in the correct column.

Right Wrong

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Pray about your plans | HU | TRE |
| Do things without thinking | RN | BOA |
| Do what pleases you | AT | STF |
| Ask if it's God's will | MB | AN |
| Be ready to change your plans for God | LE | ED |
| Do things your own way | OND | UL |



H _____ **(v10)**

B _____ **(v16)**

Which of those two words is most like you?

Read verse 17

It's not just doing the wrong thing that's sinful. If you don't do the right thing, that's just as bad.



Pray!

Tell God about your plans. Ask Him to show you if they're ok or not. And ask Him to help you do things to serve Him. (Grab some spare paper, and jot down ways you can serve God this week.)

Common wealth gains

James
5 v 1-6



James is really furious!

Read James 5 v 1-3

These people are loaded.

But what does James say has happened to their money?

Your wealth has
r_____ (v2)

These people cared too much about money. But James says their money might as well be rotting, because they haven't used it to serve God (like giving to the church or to the poor).

Think!

Do you keep your money and possessions all to yourself? Or do you share them with other people? Or give them to people who have very little?



WEIRD WORDS

Corroded

Worn out

Testify

Give evidence

Hoarded

Selfishly stored up

Harvesters

People who gather the crops

Self indulgence

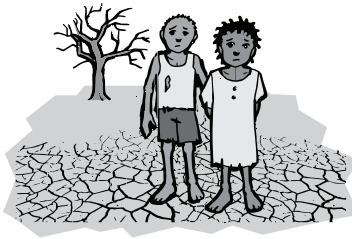
Spending all your money on yourself

Condemned

Sentenced to death

Opposing

Against



Read verses 4-6

These people did anything they could to make more money. Including treating others really badly. *What should they have done with their money? Tick two.*

Paid the wages they owed

Put it all in the bank

Bought an ostrich farm

Given it to poor people

These people were living to make money and to please only themselves. They didn't care about God or about other people. One day, God will punish anyone who lives for themselves and not for Him.

Action!

How can you serve God with your money and possessions? What can you share or give away or give to charity?



Pray!

Ask God to help you be more unselfish with your money and possessions, and to do the things you've written down.



James 5 v 7-11



WEIRD WORDS

Yield

Give/produce

The Judge

Jesus, who will one day return to judge everyone who has rejected Him

Prophets

God's messengers

Blessed

Privileged to serve God

Persevered

Kept living God's way

Job

Godly man who suffered loads

Compassion

Loving kindness

Mustn't grumble

Yesterday, James came down hard on selfish, rich people. Today he tells Christians how to deal with those people and how to cope with tough times.

Read James 5 v 7-11

What does James say we should do (v7)? Unjumble the anagrams.

Be p _____
e a t p i n t

Life is not perfect, and at times it seems unfair, but James says be patient!

Be patient like a

f _____
r a m r e f

He plants seeds, then has to wait for months and months before they grow into crops that he can eat and sell.



These guys might be poor and badly treated but they should stick with it and wait for the...

L _____ c _____
s o l d r m i g c o n

When Jesus comes again, they will go to live for ever with Him. That's far better than any amount of money!

James mentions how Job had a really tough time (v11). Yet he didn't turn away from the Lord, and he will live with God for ever! God is so loving and kind to those who stick with Him through tough times. He gives Christians the strength to keep going, and one day they'll be rewarded with eternal life.

Read verse 9 again

Don't g _____
b l u r g e m

Don't moan that other people have more than you, or blame God when life seems hard.

Wow!

What have you been grumbling about recently?

Pray!



Tell God about your complaints and ask Him to sort them out. Ask Him to help you be patient until He returns, when Christians will go to live with Him for ever!

Swear box



James
5 v 12



I promise
I'll feed the
cat every
day

Ever made a
promise you wish
you hadn't?

You want to
keep it, but it's
soo hard.

Write down some promises you've
not been able to keep.

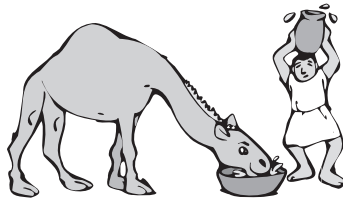
In Bible times, people would make
a promise

I'll feed your
camel every day

with a vow added:

I swear it in
God's name

The Pharisees argued that if your
promise didn't mention God, then
you didn't have to keep it. Crazy!
This was twisting God's law and it
led to lots of crafty lying.



James said these promises were
wrong because God's name and
things to do with God were being
used in a disrespectful way.

Read James 5 v 12

Think!

Do you use God's name carelessly?
Maybe you say "Oh my God!"
without even realising it.

James says don't make promises
carelessly or say unnecessary
things (like "I swear on my gran's
deathbed"). *Crack the code to
reveal James' advice.*

All you need to say is...



Action!



Try to be honest. Mean what you
say, and say what you mean. And
if you do make a promise, try to
keep it!

Ask God to help you be honest
with people and keep your
promises.

WEIRD WORDS

Swear

Make a promise

Condemned

Punished by God

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P R S T U W Y

