



James – faith with hands and feet

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

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7 days of 10–15 minutes

Discovering with the letter of James how faith becomes concrete in everyday life

Preparation: 10 min

How to use the series: One devotion a day – ideal for a camp week, a holiday club or seven meetings. At the start, briefly recall the day before.

1 Part 1: When things get hard

Bible: James 1:2–4

James starts surprisingly: “Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” He does not glorify suffering. But he says: hard times can make us grow. Perseverance does not grow in a deckchair but on the road.

Question: Looking back, which hard time made you stronger?

Prayer: *God, when things get hard, do not let go of me. Let perseverance grow in me in difficult times. Amen.*



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2 Part 2: Asking for wisdom

Bible: James 1:5–8

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault." Training or studies, relationships, responsibility – before many decisions we lack clarity. James encourages us: ask God. He gives gladly and does not reproach you for asking.

💬 **Question:** Which decision do you need wisdom for right now?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, I often lack clarity. Give me wisdom for the decisions ahead of me. Amen.*

3 Part 3: Listening and doing

Bible: James 1:22–25

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James compares this to someone who looks in a mirror, walks away and immediately forgets what they look like. God's word is not knowledge for the shelf. It wants to reach our hands and feet – how we live.

💬 **Question:** What have you already heard from God but not yet put into practice?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, I do not want only to listen but to do. Help me to live out your word in my everyday life. Amen.*

4 Part 4: No favouritism

Bible: James 2:1–9

James describes a scene: a rich man with a gold ring comes into the church – he gets the best seat. A poor man in dirty clothes is told to stand or sit on the floor. James asks sharply: "Have you not discriminated among yourselves?" God has chosen the poor. Our groups also have invisible rankings – by looks, money, popularity.

💬 **Question:** Where do we unconsciously favour certain people?

🙏 **Prayer:** *God, keep me from treating people according to appearance or status. Give me your eyes. Amen.*



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5 Part 5: Faith that acts

Bible: James 2:14–17

“What good is it if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds?” James gets concrete: if a brother or sister has nothing to wear and nothing to eat, and you just say, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed” – what good is that? Faith without deeds is dead. Not because we have to earn God’s love, but because real love acts.

 **Question:** Where could your faith get hands and feet this week?

 **Prayer:** *Jesus, let my faith come alive in what I do. Show me whom I can help. Amen.*

6 Part 6: The power of words

Bible: James 3:3–10

A small rudder steers a large ship; a small spark sets a forest on fire. It is the same with the tongue, writes James: “With the tongue we praise God, and with it we curse human beings. This should not be!” Today that applies to chats, comments and voice messages too. Words can build up or destroy.

 **Question:** Which words do you want to use deliberately this week – and which to leave out?

 **Prayer:** *God, help me to choose my words wisely – spoken and online. Let them build up, not destroy. Amen.*

7 Part 7: Patience and prayer

Bible: James 5:7–8, 13–16

To finish: “Be patient, like a farmer waiting for the harvest.” And: “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Pray for each other. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” Faith with hands and feet also needs folded hands: prayer is the source of strength for everything else.

 **Question:** What are you taking away from this week with James?

 **Prayer:** *God, give me patience and do not let me grow weary in prayer. Thank you for listening. Amen.*

For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.