

# Acts-Revelation

James

James 1-2

Younger Verse

Obey God's message! James 1:22

Older Verse

Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. James 1:22

Welcome Time

How do you feel when your brother or sister starts telling you what to do, like they are in charge? Do you listen and obey or do you think what they say doesn't matter? Let's see what we can learn from the brother in our story today!

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

Did you know that Jesus had brothers and sisters? Well, He did! After Mary had the baby that God gave her, Jesus, she and her husband Joseph had four sons named James, Joseph, Simon and Judas (or Jude). They also had daughters, but the Bible doesn't tell us their names. (See Matthew 13:55-56) We don't know a lot about all of Jesus' brothers and sisters, but we do some things about his brother James. While Jesus and James were growing up James didn't think Jesus was anything very special and James certainly didn't believe that Jesus was God's Son! But somewhere between the time that Jesus started teaching and helping people and when He died on the cross for us, James finally believed that his brother Jesus was also His Savior, God's Son, the One who would forgive him of his sins.

After Jesus died, James wrote a letter. This letter is now a part of our Bible, just like Paul's letters! Do you remember that Paul wrote his letters to all the people who lived in one place, like Philippi or Thessaloniki? James wrote his letter to all the believers who had moved to other cities and countries and were spread out. His letter is named after him - James. In James' letter, over and over again, James calls these believers in Jesus his "brothers." This doesn't just mean that only boys can believe in Jesus! If any of you have ever listened to Spanish very much you might know that the Spanish word for brother is "hermano," but when you ask an Hispanic child how many *hermanos* he has he will tell you how many brothers and sisters he has because the word *hermanos* also means "brothers and sisters." So James is writing to his brothers and sisters in Christ, those who believe like him, that Jesus (his real brother) was God's Son and died for each of them to provide them with forgiveness from their sins.

Lesson Goals

Stress the importance of being obedient to Christ if we say we trust Him.

In his letter, James had lots of things to say to his “brothers and sisters.” He told them that when they wanted to obey God but didn’t know the right thing to do at the right time, just to ask God (pray) and He would be glad to let them know what was right. He told them how to care for each other and how to make sure that they acted in obedience to God so that others around them could see that they should believe Him, too. James reminded them that they should be “quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger!” That means that we should want to listen to people more than we want to talk - we should give other people a chance to share first. And when we do we shouldn’t get angry quickly - it should take a long time for us to get angry because we want to be patient and loving with our “brothers and sisters.” James also reminded the believers not just to listen to God’s Word, the Bible, but to do it! God wants us to be obedient to the things we learn about in the Bible.

James also wrote to his “brothers and sister” about “playing favorites!” James told them that if a rich man and a poor man both came into their church that they weren’t to play favorites with the rich man just because he had money. We can learn from this, too. We should treat everyone the same whether they have money or not. God wants us to love and care for everyone and he gave James the words to explain this by talking about “what we believe” (faith) and “what we do” (works).

It is important that we believe in Jesus and trust him, but James explains that if we say we have faith (that we do believe and trust in Jesus) then you should be able to tell by the things we do. He explains that if a “brother or sister” doesn’t have clothes or food then you should help them get clothes and food. We shouldn’t just send them away. If we believe in Jesus and trust Him, it is not just enough to say that we do - we must also do the right things. But James also says that it’s not just enough to do lots of good things but never believe that Jesus died for us. Doing lots of good things won’t get us to heaven if we don’t trust Jesus, but when we do trust Him then we should be obedient and help others!

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

Using extra large pieces of construction paper cut into long triangular pennant shapes, have students write the verse “Obey God’s Message” across their pennant, beginning at the wide end and ending in the point. Repeat the verse many times as students are drawing.

**Prayer Time**

Pray with your students that they will do the right thing at the right time, that they will listen more than they talk and that they will be slow to get angry. Also pray that they will not only care for the brothers and sisters in their family, but also their brothers and sisters in the family of God.

**Clean Up/Snack time**

Review the main points of the lesson today and remind your students not just to listen to you, but to be obedient this week!

Planning for November 14  
James 3-5

## **Preschool Lesson for James 1-2**

### **James Was Jesus' Brother**

How many of you have brothers and sisters? (Allow each child to answer and in response to their answers, count on your fingers and aloud the number of siblings they have. For example; if Cindy has 2 sisters and 1 brother, count with her - 1, 2, 3.) The Bible tells us that Jesus had four brothers (1, 2, 3, 4) and some sisters, but we don't know how many. Jesus was the oldest!

James was one of Jesus' brothers. They grew up together. They played together and learned how to make things from wood from their father Joseph.

After Jesus died on the cross, James wrote a letter to everyone in the church. His letter is in the Bible and is named "James." James wrote his letter to tell other people to believe in his brother Jesus and to do what He tells us to do in the Bible. Jesus wants us to love him and be obedient. In his letter, James told us not just to listen to what the Bible says, but to also obey!

What does the Bible tell us? To listen, not to get angry quickly, to obey our parents and it tells us that Jesus love us.

Sing: Jesus Loves Me

Provide wooden blocks for your preschoolers to play with. Remind them that Jesus, James and their father Joseph made things from wood.



## Activities for James 1-2

- **Make a Collage:** Provide students with construction paper, magazines, scissors and glue. Preprint James 1:19 on the construction paper. Have students look through magazines for ears and mouths. Instruct them to cut out more ears than mouths and form a collage by gluing them all over their papers, leaving the verse uncovered.
  - Provide word searches and crossword puzzles to reinforce the lesson and verses from the lesson.
  - Ask your students to illustrate James 2. Remind them that we aren't to play favorites and that when a "brother or sister" needs food or clothing, we should help them.
  - Take the opportunity to continue reviewing the books of the Bible with your students. Use activities that will reinforce their recall of these books. One idea: print each book of the Bible on foot-shaped paper and arrange them in order around your Bible Study space. Using an oversized foam die, have students make their way through the path of Bible books, having students remember the books that lay behind them. Offer a reward and certificate to those who are willing to learn them all.
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