

Acts-Revelation

James

James 3-5

Younger Verse

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:17 (NLT)

Older Verse

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it. James 4:17 (NLT)

Welcome Time

Ask students, "What does it mean to sin?" Then let them know that "We are going to see what God has to say about sin in the book of James."

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.*

Who can tell me who James is? (Give your students time to remember and answer.) He wrote a book of the Bible, James, and he was Jesus' brother. And we talked about him last week when we talked about being "quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (1:19)" and not just listening to God's Word, the Bible, but to doing it (1:23)! We talked about being obedient to the things we learn about in the Bible and about doing what we say we believe.

Do you remember me explaining that James, Jesus' brother, wrote to "brothers" in his book. He didn't write to Jesus and Jude only, he talked about how, when we believe in Jesus, we have new brothers and sisters; brothers and sisters who believe in Jesus the way we do. Brothers and sisters should care for each other and do what is good for each other. James tells us, in his book, how "brothers and sisters" should act. He tells us not to talk about each other (4:11) and says that we should not complain against each other, either (5:9). We should tell each other the truth (5:12) and even tell each other when we have sinned (5:16). We do this because God wants us to, but because when our "brothers and sisters" know that we have a problem and we tell God and ask for His forgiveness, but also share it with them, they can help us do the right thing. They can also pray for us (5:16) and we should pray for them. James says that even when we see a "brother or sister" sinning, we should remind them of what God says and help them to obey Him (5:19).

Is it easy to tell other people when you've done something wrong? How easy is it to only say good things about people? It probably seems a little easier to tell other people when they have done something wrong, but you know what?! When you really care about someone, like a brother or sister, and when you want them to be all that God wants them to be, it is really hard to show them when they are wrong! You don't want to make your friend mad, or hurt your friendship. But you are a true friend when you want that friend to be more like Jesus! How do we know when a friend is doing the right thing or how do we know if what they are doing is wrong? How do we know right from wrong? We know right from wrong by coming to church and by reading the Bible. Memorizing Bible verses, hiding them in our heart, also helps. And if you're not sure

Lesson Goals

Brothers and sisters in the faith should care for one another and hold each other accountable.

what to do, ask your Bible Study leader and they can find the answer to your question in the Bible. You can also pray! You can pray that God will show you the right thing to do at the right time, but you can also pray for others to do the same. The Bible tells us that when we trust God and are obedient, our prayers can accomplish lots of things!

When we talked about sin earlier, how many of you said sin is “doing bad things”? Well, it is, but it’s also more than that. Let me explain. How many of you have ever played darts or a game like it? Where do you try to aim when you are throwing darts? The bulls-eye, or center! So, is it good if you hit the wall beside the dart board? No! That “hitting the wall outside of the dartboard,” or the outer area of the dart board, is like sin. Sin is “missing the mark.” God wants us to be like Him, more and more every day and He tells us how to do that in His word, the Bible. Last week, we learned that we should do more than just listen to what God says - we should also be obedient! And our verse today tells us that when we know what is right, but choose not to do what we know is right, that is sin. So sin is doing bad things, but it is also “not doing good things.” So, how many of you have ever done bad things? What about not doing the thing you knew was the right thing to do? Romans 3:23 tells us that EVERYONE has sinned! So, is there anyone who hasn’t sinned? NO! Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us! He didn’t wait for us to be good enough because He knows that without Him we can’t be good. Romans 10:9 says that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved!

Have you ever told God that you know you are a sinner? Have you ever thanked Him for the gift of His Son who died for us? Have you ever told Him that you believe that Jesus is Lord and that God raised Him from the dead? This is what it means to be God’s child and to be brothers and sisters in Christ. If you’ve never done this, please come talk to me.

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Attach a long piece of string or yarn (approximately 2 yards long), to opposite walls or even chairs. Print each word of this week’s Bible verse on separate strips of construction paper and pin them in random order, with clothespins, to the yarn. Have your students take turns arranging the verse in order, practicing aloud as much as possible.

Prayer Time

Pray for everyone in church today. Have each student pray for the person on their right, praying that each will do the right thing and that they will help each other. Teacher, be sure to pray for those who didn’t come.

Clean Up/Snack time

Be sensitive to your students’ needs and questions. Be very deliberate, praying for discernment, as you answer questions regarding this week’s lesson.

Planning for November 21
1st Peter

Preschool Lesson for James 3-5

We Can Talk to God

Who knows what we are doing when we talk to God? Praying! The Bible says lots of things about prayer. Even in the book of James, written by Jesus' brother, it says a lot about prayer.

The Bible tells us in James 4:2-3, that we do not have because we do not ask. Do you think God means that we don't have a new Barbie or new Hot Wheels because we haven't asked for them? God isn't talking about Barbies or Hot Wheels in the Bible. He even says that we shouldn't be selfish when we ask God for things. We shouldn't ask for things just because we want more toys or because we want the newest toy.

Our prayers should be mostly for other people, but it's okay to pray for ourselves, too. The Bible tells us that if we are in trouble, if we are hurting and sad, that we should pray (5:13) and when we don't know the right the to do, we can ask God for that also (1:5). We should also pray when people are sick (5:15)

Pray with your students and give them a chance to pray, also.

Have your students draw a picture of a place where they can pray.

Activities for James 3-5

- To continue practicing the books of the Bible, print each of the books of the Bible on an index card. Shuffle the cards and then distribute them to your students, 1-2 books per child depending on the number of children attending. You might even want to separate the Old Testament from the New Testament if you only have a few students. Instruct your students to put themselves in order, from Genesis to Revelation. Encourage your students and prompt them as necessary with clues about the next book.
 - Provide your students with paper and pencils. Ask them to write one thing from the Bible that they know God wants them to do. Help those who are still learning to write, having them dictate to you. Collect all papers. Reminding your students of the Bible verse, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it," read back what your students have written, asking them to tell you how they can be obedient to God during the upcoming week and throughout their lives.
 - If you have access to a magnetic or Velcro type dart board, make this available after the Bible story. As kids try for the bulls-eye take the opportunity to reinforce God's definition of sin. (If a dart board is not available, you might want to draw a bulls-eye onto poster paper and play a version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" with construction paper darts that each student, blind-folded, tries to attach to the bulls-eye.)
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