

sermon notes

Tony Caffey | Verse By Verse Fellowship | Prove Your Faith
February 1, 2023 | “Introducing Jesus’s Little Brother” | **James 1:1**

1) Who wrote the NT book of James?

The Apostle _____, Jesus’s younger _____ - _____

2) When did the author write this book?

Approximately _____

3) Why was this book written?

To motivate _____ believers to live out their
_____ with visible, God-glorifying _____

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

How familiar are you with the book of James? Have you heard these expressions before: 1) Count it all joy when you encounter trials of many kinds, 2) Faith without works is dead, 3) Be a doer of the Word not just a hearer, 4) No man can tame the tongue, 5) Let not many of you become teachers because you know you will incur stricter judgment. Where are those statements found in James?

Who wrote the book of James? To whom was it written (1:1)? When was it written? Why was it written? What are its major themes? Access a Study Bible or commentary for help answering these questions. Also you can watch the following Bible Project video online: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/james/>

GET PERSONAL

Read the Book of James in one sitting. This should take you about fifteen minutes. Write down confusing or convicting statements made in this book. Are there any areas in your life that James (or more specifically, the Lord) is challenging you to change? In what ways are you demonstrating faithful obedience to the principles in the book of James? Thank the Lord for the way that he has brought about that obedience in your life.

Why did James call himself a “servant” or “slave” (1:1; Greek – δούλος) of the Lord Jesus? Do you consider yourself a servant of the Lord Jesus? Do you call him “Lord”? Why or why not?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

For the next several months, our church will be studying the book of James. What are you most excited about studying in this book? Is there anything that you are apprehensive about studying? Take a few moments now to pray and ask God to transform you by the study of his Word. Ask him to mature you in specific ways. Consider making a commitment to read the book of James (or part of it) every day for the next few weeks.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

According to Hebrews 2:10-13, Jesus isn’t just our Savior, he’s our big brother. Are you comfortable with referring to Jesus as your big brother? How is that metaphor significant for us as Christians? How could that metaphor be misused if we fail to harmonize it with other descriptions of Jesus in the NT? Why did James refer to himself as Jesus’s servant instead of Jesus’s brother? He would have more reason than most to call Jesus “brother.” For more help with this concept, see the article by Andrew Prideaux at the TGC website:

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-our-true-brother/>

Also check out the song “Kids” by the band “Citizens”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOXjCSEhvmM>