



## James Series Study Sheet

Week 1—Feb 11

Text: James 1:1

Message Title: James's Journey

If you've read the book of James, share some of your impressions of this book. What are some of its major themes? What is the tone of the book? What stood out to you in reading it? What questions do you have?

What is your impression of James as a person?

Read John 7:5. Even though James was Jesus' brother, he wasn't a follower of Jesus during Jesus' ministry. Why do you think that was?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. Why do you think Paul specifically mentions that Jesus appeared to James after his resurrection?

Read Acts 1:14. What has changed for James by this point?

Read Acts 15:12-21. What is your impression of James from his role in the Jerusalem council? What qualities does he exhibit in this situation?

Read Galatians 2:11-13. Paul mentions some "men from James" who came to Antioch and dissuaded Peter from eating with Gentiles. How might these people have distorted and misrepresented James's teaching?

Read the following words about James from the church historian Eusebius (4<sup>th</sup> century):

*"He has been called the Just by all from the time of our Savior to the present day; for there were many that bore the name of James. He was holy from his mother's womb; and he drank no wine nor strong drink, nor did he eat flesh. No razor came upon his head; he did not anoint himself with oil, and he did not use the bath. He alone was permitted to enter into the holy place; for he wore not woolen but linen garments. And he was in the habit of entering alone into the temple, and was frequently found upon his knees begging forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard like those of a camel, in consequence of his constantly bending them in worship of God, and asking forgiveness for the people."*

What do you glean from that quote about the character of James?

What quality of James do you most admire? What steps you could take to cultivate that quality in your life?

Read James 1:1. What is significant about the way James describes himself?

Who is this letter written to?

Where are the letter's recipients located?

Why do you think James wrote this letter?

What do you hope to gain from this series in the book of James? What do you hope God will teach you, show you, develop in you through this series?

Spend some time praying for God to speak afresh through the book of James as we take this journey together.