

James

Lesson #13, Chapter 4 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. *Observation* is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding Word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 4 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 4. Now, *summarize* the contents of Chapter 4. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-10).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 11-12).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 13-17).
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: What is the *main point* of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that best summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, *consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter*. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to *title* your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. Words that refer to *fighting* or *violence* occur frequently in verses 1-4. List what you find along with the verse references.

6. James addresses his readers in various ways. List the terms he uses along with the verse reference.

7. Make a list of what you learn about *adulteresses* from verses 1-5.

8. Now make a list of any *commands* that are given in this chapter. Be sure to cite where you found them.

9. Words like *speak* or *say* are used frequently. Record what you find along with the verse references.

10. List any references to *time* from this chapter. Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.

There's more observations to be found to this chapter than what I've asked you here. If you're eager for more, try looking for and noting:

- *References to time*
- *Repeated words*
- *Transition words like "for," "therefore," "so," "finally."*
- *Commands*
- *Comparisons*
- *Contrasts*
- *Lists of words, phrases or related thoughts*

11. Write down *at least* one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

James Chapter 4

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.

12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.”

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.