ALL SOULS

THE BIBLE BOOK OF

JAMES

THE PUNCHING PREACHER

NAME

Written by Trevor Pearce

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O/ THE PRE-FIGHT BUILD UP

IN THE GYM WITH JAMES

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Confident and unwavering trust in God

Mature and Complete

A Christian's character strengthened by trials

Knowing how to live in God's world in God's way

God's unreserved, uncalculating, unwavering intent to give his gift of wisdom to all who ask

Doubt

Conflict in loyalty (4:4)

Double-minded

Divided heart

Take Pride

To value what God values

Fade Away

Death

Enjoying eternal life with the God you love

1/ JAMES 1:1-18 LIFE LESSONS

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

The first night took us into the gym, where James quickly worked out the kind of training regime we need. Now he wants us to begin to sweat, as he prepares us for the trials ahead.

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

To grow and mature we must know our identity

If we are to survive and finish the fight of life, then we have look away from ourselves to the unchanging character of God

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1. What sort of trials might a Christian face?	James and Jesus
	8. When we get our wisdom and identity from God, what does Jesus say we will resemble? Look up Matthew 5:13-16.
2. How might we think about God when we're in the middle of trials?	Case studies
manage of firms.	Read the following stories:
	Mary feels under pressure. She has gone to church
3. How does James want us to think? (v2)	her whole life but is struggling to read her Bible and pray. She wants to live for Jesus but feels like she keeps on failing. At youth group, her friends tell her
4. Why? (v3-4)	how much they enjoy reading the Bible and praying, and it makes Mary feel worse. She can't work out why God would let her find it so hard.
	Mark feels exhausted. His mum has been sick for
	months, meaning that Mark has to do lots of things
5. What does James want us to ask from God? (v5) Wisdom is:	at home to look after her and his little sister. He's just found out from the doctor that mum might nevel get better. On top of this, he keeps getting in trouble
	at school because of his homework - sometimes he
6. Why do we need wisdom?	doesn't have time to do it, and when he does have time he finds it so hard. He's angry at God for lettin all these things happen, and doesn't know how he ca
	keep going.
7. How should we ask? (v6-8)	What is the trial? What should they do? How can
Activity	they keep on trusting God?
The passage tells us loads of things about God which help us both trust him and to get our identity from	
who He is.	
Read through v1-18 and write down which verses show us these character traits of God.	
Character of God Verses	
Wise	
Generous	
Life-Giving	
Unchanging	
Good	



Religious

Polluted by the word

Outward obedience of an inward conviction

Worthless

Religion that has no real outward obedience

Outward obedience reflecting an inward conviction

Letting the value system of the world control you

2/ JAMES 1:18-27 LEARNING TO LISTEN

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

The trainer knows our weakness, dodgy eyes, poor footwork, glass jaw, and lack of stamina

We will only win the crown, when we learn to trust in His wise, generous and loving character (1:12)

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

The mark of spiritual life is that we listen and obey God's word

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DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS IN JAMES 2:1-13

Our glorious Lord Jesus Christ

God's King who reveals God's character

Favouritism

To judge a persons worth by outward appearance

Evil Thoughts

To act like a judge instead of a brother or sister

Poor

Materially poor (Luke 6:20), not spiritual poor (Matthew 5:3)

Choser

God specific choice

Kingdom

The place where God's King rules (Matthew 12:28, Luke 17:21)

Blaspheming the noble name

To verbally abuse of God's King

Roval lav

The law which comes from God's King The law that teaches you how to love your neighbour (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:37-39)

Favouritism

The opposite of the royal law

Law breakers

Failure in one point makes a person guilty

Law that gives freedom

Now forgiven we have the power to obey

Mercy

Love for the vulnerable

3/ JAMES 2:1-13 LEARNING TO ACT

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW Having been taught how to listen, our trainer will now teach us how to act	THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST It is impossible to be a true follower of Jesus and show favouritism Loving the poor will mark a follower of Jesus A follower of Jesus has been set free by God's law

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS THE TIME TO APPLY

 If you could achieve anything in the next five years what would it be? 	3. How does Jesus reflect what we learnt in James 2?
2. If you could be anybody in the world who would you be?	4. Read 14:7-11. Can you think of a modern-day version of this story?
3. If you could spend an hour with anyone who would it be?	
il be:	
4. If you had lots of money how would you use it?	
5. How might your answers help you see who and how you show favour?	5. Who are the people Jesus talks about in 14:12-14 in your world?
Jesus and James (Read Luke 14:1-14)	
Jesus and James (Read Loke 11.1-11)	6. When will you be rewarded for loving the poor and
1. Who are the different characters in this story?	vulnerable? (14:13-14).
2. Read 14:2-6. How much care did the religious leaders have for the vulnerable man?	



4/ JAMES 2:14-26

LEARNING TO LIVE

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Looking to the Glorious Lord Jesus always leads to acting like him

Today our trainer will deal with people who never want to get into the ring/ on the track

What to do with people who are never prepared to put any of their training into action

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

Saving faith ALWAYS leads to living and acting like the Glorious Lord Jesus

A faith that does not change you is empty, dead, and false

THE MESSAGE THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

Is Paul at odds with James?

When we read this passage, it's really easy to think that James is preaching 'salvation by works'. If that's the case, then he's clearly at odds with Paul. As we teach our young people, we must make it clear that Paul and James are not teaching two different gospels.

Here are three word pictures designed to help:

Picture One: Living or Dead

Our trainer is comparing the difference between a living faith and a dead one. This is the first picture we might want to use.

Picture Two: Birth or Maturity

The second picture is based on the difference between birth and growth.

When Paul uses the word 'faith', he is describing spiritual birth. He speaks of faith as a gift of God, which enables us to trust in Christ's finished work upon the cross.

When James uses the same word, 'faith', he is speaking about how a Christian grows up, how they mature. It's no good having a theology of 'salvation by faith alone' if it does not lead to a radically changed life.

Picture Three: The Last Day/Two Different Questions

The last picture focuses on how Paul and James apply the word 'righteousness'. Both Paul and James want us to imagine a Christian standing before the judgment seat of Christ:

<u>Paul's Question:</u> The question that Paul trains us to answer is, "Why should I let you into heaven?" Paul's answer is: "The finished work of Christ"

James' Question: The question James trains us to answer is, "What is the evidence that you received God's grace?" Our trainer wants us to know what a righteous life looks like. The life that proves that we've understood and accepted God's grace.

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DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS IN JAMES 3:1-12

Perfect

A mature Christian character

The tongue

The enemy agent within God's rightful Kingdom - A Motyer A ready tool at the disposal of God's enemy - A Motyer

A world of evil

The fallen, rebellious, sinful world system

Нап

The place of final judgment

Restless evil

A wild beast, always liable to break out - J.B.Phillips

Deadly poison

A mouth full of a vipers poison (Psalms 140:3)

Praise and cursing

Talking from both sides of your mouth

Salt water

Bitter water

5/ JAMES 3:1-12 TAMING THE UNTAMEABLE

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

- We saw that a faith that does not change you is empty, dead, and false
- A real faith is alive and works its way out by loving the poor
- Today we will see how a real faith affects the how we speak: the good works of our words.

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

- Those who follow the 'glorious Lord Jesus' learn what it takes to control the uncontrollable
- Left to ourselves the tongue will always defeat us
- The tongue is like a wild beast breaking out at any point, causing utter devastation

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS THE TIME TO APPLY

James and Jesus	4. Where do you see these pictures being painted
1. How does Jesus describe the natural source that	today?
controls what we say? Read Matthew 15:10-19.	
	Jesus and You
2. What will happen if the source is not changed?	5. How do you think Jesus' words apply to Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat & Insta? (Matthew 12:36-37
7 0 / 0 7/ 0 /	
James Proverbs & The Psalms	
3. What kind of word pictures do Proverbs and Psalms paint? Fill in the blanks with what you	
find for each verse below:	
Proverbs 10:8	
Proverbs 10:11	
Proverbs 11:9	
Proverbs 12:18	
Proverbs 16:27	
Proverbs 16:28	
Proverbs 18:7	
Proverbs 18:8	
Psalms 140:1-3	

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DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS IN JAMES 3:13-18

Wisdom

Living in God's world in God's way

Happily living under God's rule

Bitter envy

Criticism of others

Selfish ambition

The opposite to humility, refusing to live under the rule of God's King

Heart

The decision making part of us

Earthly

Temporary, weak, imperfect

Unspiritual

The spiritual decision making centre

Demonic

A wisdom from Satan

Disorder

A restless, unsettled state of being

An unlimited amount of sin on offer

Moral blamelessness, incapable of producing anything evil.

Peace-loving

Gentle and open to reason

Submissive

Joyful obedience

Love for the neighbour that leads to action

Acts that wisdom produce

Treating all people as made in God's image "Not a face we wear for an occasion, but a nature which we display in our deeds" - A Motyer

What you see is what you get, 'real', genuine.

Harvest of Righteousness

An unlimited amount of righteousness on offer



6/ JAMES 3:13-18 THE CONTROL ROOM

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW Like a wild animal, the tongue is impossible to tame. The reason it's untameable and unquenchable is down to its polluted source Today we will find out the origin of each source - the polluted and the fresh	We will learn the source of earthly and heavenly wisdom We will learn that wisdom has nothing to do with intelligence, but everything to do with obedience We will begin to learn what the two 'wisdoms' look like in everyday life

DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS IN JAMES 4:1-12

Quarrels

Verbal fight/battle

Desires

Selfish indulgent pleasure

Battle within you

Waging war from the inside

A selfish desire for another persons position or possessions

Adulterous people

The unfaithful people of God

Friendship with the world

Loving the system that rebels against Jesus

Enmity against God

The result of loving the world instead of God

God's Jealousy

God's desire for His people's love to be wholly and unreservedly His

He gives more grace

The grace that keeps us faithful, preventing God's jealousy

Proud

Refusing to bow the knee to God

Humble

Happy to bow the knee to God

Recruited to a new master who we joyfully obey

The devil's primary purpose is to separate God and man

A refusal to let Satan get between you and God

Come near to God

Repentance of the believer, not their salvation

Wash vour hands

Outward repentance (hands)...

Purify your hearts

...Inward repentance (heart)

Double-minded

Divided loyalty. Not sure if they are a friend of God or the world?

Grieve & mourn

Deep repentance, in the light of the Lord's return

Scornful laughter that refuses to take sin seriously

Joy to gloom

Moving from scornful laughter to deep repentance

Slander/Speaking against a brother

Speaking evil of a brother

Judging the law

Constant disobedience of the law, reveals our rejection



7/ JAMES 4:1-12 LEARNING TO FIGHT THE ENEMY

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Having learned the nature of heavenly and earthly wisdom, we now continue to look at what it looks like in daily practice

We will learn how to resist the devil and how to repent when we don't

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

We will take a look inside our hearts and the battle within

We will take a look at our enemy, and how he uses the world and the flesh to disrupt our relationship with God

We will learn how to repent when Satan disrupts our relationship with God and each other

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS THE TIME TO APPLY

Fighting on the inside	Fighting on the outside
 Read James 4:1-3. In what way do you feel these pressures: You desire something but don't get it, so you're unkind. 	2. Read 1 John 2:15-17. Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own
	way, wanting everything for yourself, want- ing to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from
You <u>covet</u> but cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.	him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity. (MSG)
	In what way do you feel these pressures?
You <u>take</u> God out of the control centre, so your prayers wither.	
You pray <u>proudly</u> with wrong motives, desiring others' position and possessions.	

(continues on the next page)

James and Jesus

1. Look at Matthew 4:1-11 and see how Jesus fights on the inside and outside:

Fighting On The Inside	Fighting On The Outside	Making the devil flee
4:2-4	4:5-6	4:4
4:8-9	4:8-9	4:7
		4:10
		4:11

2.	Read Luke 15:11-24. When we fail to love God, and instead love the world, what must we remember about God?	When the son acknowledges his rebellion, how does the Father react?	
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The good they ought to do Knowing what it right, but not doing it

8/ JAMES 4:13-16 HUMBLE CONFIDENCE

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Our trainer in the last session showed us the enemy's lethal combination:

Our Desires - The fight on the inside Your old nature that rebels against Jesus

Our World - The fight on the outside The world system that opposes Jesus

Our Enemy - The enemy you face

Satan uses both of these to disrupt your relationship with Christ

The answer to the enemy's lethal combination, is to meet it with the one that James has taught us in the last session:

Accept (4:6) Submit (4:7) Resist (4:7) Repent (4:8-10)

Today, James wants us to see how the opposing combinations collide another way. Our enemy hungers for us to be utterly independent from God, which leads to disaster (4:8). Our trainer wants us to see the whole of life under the loving rule of the Glorious Lord Jesus (4:10).

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

The humble follower sees their future only in the light of God's sovereign power

What the world calls 'self-confidence' and 'prudent planning', God calls evil (4:16)

What the world calls 'pie in the sky', God calls wisdom

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9/ JAMES 5:1-6

THE RICH REAP THEIR REWARD

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

The trainer has shown us how to live humbly when we face:

Our Desires - That draw us to sin

Our World - That advertises sin

Our Enemy - That encourages sin

Our trainer has shown us how to live humbly when we are tempted to think we control our destiny, with no place for God. Today he takes us one step further down the pathway marked PRIDE. If we ignore the first two warnings, then there is every chance we will end up like the people he is describes in 5:1-6.

THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST

This is what life can look like now when you live as if there is no heaven to be gained or hell to be avoided.

This is what life will look like in the future when you live as if there is no heaven to be gained or hell to be avoided.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS THE TIME TO APPLY

Jesus & James

1. What are the similarities between what James says and Jesus' parable (Luke 16:19-31)? Fill in the boxes with what you find in each verse:

James	Jesus	
5:1	16:19	
5:1	16:20	
5:2-3	16:23	
5:3	16:24	
5:3	16:31	
5:4	16:31	
5:5		
5:6		

 For many of us, James 5:1-6 might seem a little far off and not that relevant. Read the short true story below and consider the questions underneath: 	3. Think forward twenty years Where might you be, and what job you might have? How should James 5:1-6 shape your attitude and actions if you are in a position of power, influence and
Christians in Pakistan	wealth?
A recent survey of ten brick-kilns in Punjab found	
that more than 60% of the workers were Christians.	
Many Christians toil in brick-kilns across Pakistan,	
working out in the open in nearly all weathers, making	
bricks by hand. Frequently their debts hang over	
the families for generations, meaning they lose a cut	
of their meagre pay. While the debt remains, they	
cannot leave their jobs. Effectively trapped, they are extremely vulnerable to discrimination from their	
employers – some brick-kiln workers have been sold	
like slaves from one owner to another.	
Through a Barnabas Fund project, a total of 120	
brick-kiln families have been freed from their debt in the last six months.	
How you would apply James 5:1-6 to their situation?	
How should James 5:1-6 shape your prayers?	
How can this quote help you? "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are." Benjamin Franklin	

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DECIPHERING TRICKY TERMS IN JAMES 5:7-20

Patient

Waiting for a goal, specifically the return of the Glorious Lord Jesus

Lord's Coming

The return of the Glorious Lord Jesus to judge His enemies and deliver His servants

Stand firm

To strengthen the decision making part of you by the grace of God

Grumble

Blaming other people for your own difficulties

Judge standing at the door

Judgment is imminent

Prophets

Those who spoke God's word in the Old Testament

Blessed

God's unalterable approval and reward

Perseverance

To carry a heavy load for a long time

Job

Old Testament character who endured terrible suffering

Compassion

To put yourselves in the shoes of another

THURSDAY EVENING

10/ JAMES 5:7-20 LEARNING FROM OLD PROS

THE LINK CONNECTING THE JIGSAW We have seen how God views the rich who live as if there is "no heaven to be gained or hell to be avoided." Now our trainer shows us how to live in an unjust world.	THE TRUTH THE SEAT BELT TEST We must be <u>patient</u> for the Lord's return (5:7-10) We must <u>persevere</u> like the old pros (5:10, 11) We must <u>pray</u> like Elijah (5:17-18)



Jesus and James	4. What kind of things stop people hearing and
Read Matthew 7:24-29:	remembering God's word?
 What happens to a person's life if they don't put Jesus words into practice? 	
	5. How is that the same as James 1:23-25?
2. How does Jesus' story reflect James 1:22-25?	
3. How do the people following Jesus (8:1-3) reflect	6. What things stop you listening, obeying, and remembering God's Word?
James 1:26-27?	

James & The Prophets

1. God's message to His people about loving the poor and exposing injustice is nothing new. Read Isaiah 58:1-9 and fill in what God sees as empty and dead faith in the first half, and living and full faith in the second. You will soon see where James gets his passion for justice!

Isa	iah 58 - Empty & Dead taith
v2	
v3	
v4	
v5	
Isa	iah 58 - Living and full faith
v6	
v7	
v8	
v9	
v10	

lesus and lames (Luke 10:25-37)

1.	What do you think of the question the religious guy asks?	
2.	Who are the poor (the Samaritan) in your life?	
3.	How is the Priest and Levites faith like the demons? (James 2:18-19)	
4.	Why is it so easy to be like the priest and the Levite?	
5.	Jesus' command to us is to 'go and do likewise'.	
	How can you obey His command? What will it say about your faith if you don't obey? (James 2:26)	
	about your faith if you don't obey: (James 220)	

 Compare the difference between earthly wisdom and heavenly wisdom:

Heavenly	Earthly
3:13	3:14
3:17	3:15
3:17	3:16
3:18	

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2.	Read John 13:1-17. In what way does the Glorious Lord Jesus reflect heavenly wisdom?
	What does Jesus have at his disposal? (13:3)
	How does Jesus' final destination give him confidence to live wisely? (13:3)
	What is the only command Jesus gives in this story?
	What does Jesus promise?

Read the following scenarios and think about how you they reflect earthly wisdom and how you might apply heavenly wisdom to them:

At school: Rafael

Rafael goes to a boys school. It's rough, but no more than any other school and he can handle it. He holds his own in arguments, and though he isn't the strongest, he's by no means weak. In class, especially when there is a supply teacher, everyone is hurling abuse at each other. He doesn't really get involved that much, but if someone grills him he won't let them get away with it.

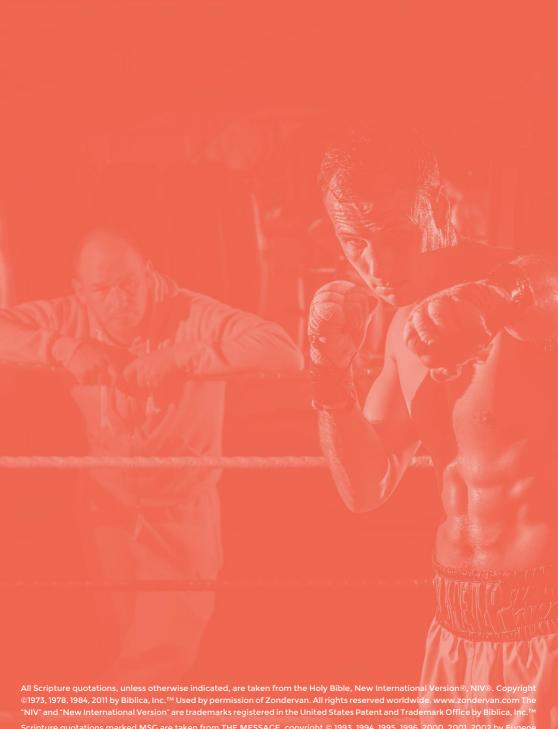
There is one kid called Jacob who gets it more than most. He's not that switched on, and you can see that he gets really offended when people spar with him. He's not able to give as good as he gets because no one really backs him up. It seems to really affect him and Rafael is aware that it could be quite painful always being on the receiving end, so he doesn't join in - but that's it. Conscience clean, he gets on with whatever he's doing.

At school: India

India goes to a girls school. It's rough and there are lots of cliques, but no more than any other school. She can handle the rumours and spitefulness, and though she isn't the most popular she's by no means a weak target. In class, especially when there is a supply teacher, everyone hurls abuse at each other. She doesn't really get involved that much but if someone has a go at her she won't let them get away with it. There is one kid, Charlotte, who gets it more than most. She's doesn't have many friends and you can see that she gets really upset with the ongoing horrible comments. She's also quite timid and doesn't resort to fighting back because no one really backs her up. It seems to really affect her and India is aware that it could be quite painful always being on the receiving end so she doesn't get involved - but that's it. Conscience clean, she gets on with whatever she's doing and ignores it.

How do you apply heavenly wisdom in these	With friends
stories?	Billy is playing xbox live with his mates. They are all
	pretty even, no-one is much better than anyone else - whatever they play. When he does beat his mates,
	they tend to swear down the line, and, naturally, he
	does the same back. I mean he's not just gonna get roasted without defending himself, is he? The more
At home	he plays with them, the more he sounds like them. He knows that if his mum or dad could hear him
Your older brother has fallen out with your mum and	they would be upset, but they can't. And it's not just
dad big time. He refuses to respect them and treats	the swearing - they also call each other Hitler and
them like dirt. Whenever he has a shower he leaves	Stalin and other people who have committed horrible
towels on the floor and never clears up after himself.	atrocities. They talk like this at school too but it's not
How do you apply heavenly wisdom to this	as bad as when they're online.
situation?	How do you apply heavenly wisdom to this situation?

James and Jesus	Read Luke 12:22-34.
Read Luke 12:13-21.	4. What are we <u>not</u> to worry about and why?
1. What hash tag would you give this story?	(12:22-31)
2. What is Jesus warning, and how does that apply	
to you? (12:15)	5. What are we to do with our wealth (12:32-34)?
	1111
	Why are we to do that?
	Why are we to do that:
	Why are we to do that:
3. In what way is Jesus parable a story version of	Why are we to do that:
3. In what way is Jesus parable a story version of James 4:13-17? What are the similarities and differences?	Why are we to do that:
James 4:13-17? What are the similarities and	Why are we to do that:



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