



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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Lesson 4

James 2:1-13 Scripture Handout

New International Version

Assign each person in the class one or more verses to study.
Each person should answer these two questions on their assigned verse.

1. What does this verse say?
 2. What does this verse mean to me?
- Discuss your answers with the class.

(James 2:1) My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

(James 2:2) Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.

(James 2:3) If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet,"

(James 2:4) have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

(James 2:5) Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

(James 2:6) But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court?

(James 2:7) Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

(James 2:8) If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

(James 2:9) But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

(James 2:10) For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

(James 2:11) For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

(James 2:12) Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,

(James 2:13) because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Write out the verse or verses you have been assigned below:

Answer These Questions for Class Discussion or Personal Study

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean to me?