



JAMES

FAITH IN ACTION

BIBLE JOURNAL PART 1

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INTRODUCTION

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'VE PICKED UP THIS BIBLE JOURNAL!

You've just begun a journey that will lead you to know, love, and be changed by God's Word in an amazing way. Inside these pages, you'll find tools that will help you understand the book of James in a real and powerful way. Whether this is your first time reading the Bible or you've read it for years, this journal will give you a clear path to follow. Our hope is that as you work through each part, you'll not only learn more about the Bible, but you'll also see how it connects to your everyday life.

YOU'LL DISCOVER HOW TO:

Read the Bible with confidence

Live out your faith in real ways

Understand what it means

God's Word is **ALIVE** and **ACTIVE**—it changes hearts and shapes who we are. So, take your time, be honest with your thoughts, and lean into what God is showing you through His Word.

IN THIS JOURNAL YOU'LL FIND THE FOLLOWING:

- Instructions on How to Study the Bible and How to Use this Journal
- An overview of the book of James
- A *key verse* to memorize as you go through the book of James
- Plenty of space to take notes
- Verses for daily Bible reading

We're praying this journal strengthens your faith and empowers you to walk confidently with Jesus each day.

LET'S DIVE IN!

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

This Bible Journal is designed to help you **STUDY GOD'S WORD WITH CONFIDENCE**. The Bible reveals who God is, what He's done, and what He wants for us. That's why we believe it's key to experiencing all He has for you.

Before diving in, it's important to understand **what the Bible is and how to approach it**. It's not just a book of advice or inspiration—it's God's Word, breathed out by Him (*2 Timothy 3:16*). Every verse points to His character, works, and will. Though written by real people in specific times and places, the Bible wasn't written *to* us but *for* us. So, **we read it with care, curiosity, and humility—seeking what God has already said, rather than making it say what we want**.

Instead of asking, "What does this mean to me?" we ask, "What does this mean?" Our goal is to uncover the author's intent, then ask, "How should I respond?" The Bible shapes us—it meets us where we are and transforms us over time. That means you can return to the same passages later and continue growing in new ways.

So, how do we do this? That's where this journal comes in! It's designed to guide you in studying the Bible using this simple method:

SEE - What does it say?

SEARCH - What does it mean?

SHAPE - How should I live it out?

SEE

What does it say?

Before we can understand what a passage means, we first need to SEE it in all its parts. Imagine standing in front of a painting at an art museum. A quick glance shows some colors on a canvas, but not much else. Sit and study it for a few minutes, and you'll start to notice background details, brushstroke textures, and hidden symbols. Suddenly, the artist's message becomes clearer. That's what this step is about—reading slowly, paying attention, and noticing every detail. We look carefully at the passage so we don't miss what God wants to show us.

ASK THESE QUESTIONS...

Who? - Who is writing or speaking? Who is being spoken to? Who are the people involved in this passage?

What? - What is happening in the passage? Identify key words, main ideas, and writing features.

- Comparisons – Things that are alike (e.g., James 3: the tongue is like a fire, both can cause great damage)
- Contrasts – Opposites or differences (e.g., James 1:22-25: hearing vs. doing God's Word)
- Other Features – Cause-and-effect statements (James 4:10), word pictures (James 1:6), and key conjunctions (therefore, but, so that)

When? - When was this written? When does this take place in the Bible? What comes before and after?

Where? - Where is this taking place? Is location important in this passage?

WHAT TO DO:

1. **Read the passage twice** – First, read for a general overview. Then, slow down and focus on details.
2. **Mark key words and phrases** – Underline, circle, or highlight important parts in your own style.
3. **Summarize** – Write a short answer to: What is happening in this passage? What do I see?

SEARCH

What does it mean?

Now that you've gathered the details, it's time to dig deeper and uncover their meaning. Think like a detective—piecing together clues to discover the author's message. Ask questions, search for answers, and look at the passage in context. The goal is to understand what the author was communicating and why it matters.

ASK THESE QUESTIONS...

- **Why** did the author say this? What message was he trying to share?
- **What** did the audience need to know?
- **What solutions** does the author give?

WHAT TO DO:

1. **Write down** what you think the passage means based on your SEE step notes.
2. **Check the context** by reading a few verses before and after to see if your understanding aligns with the passage.
3. **Compare translations** or use reliable sources (Bible dictionaries, commentaries) for deeper insight.
4. **Summarize your conclusion** in your journal.

Discovering what the passage means is a **key** part of **growing** closer to God through **His Word**.

SHAPE

How should I live it out?

The final step is where everything comes together. We don't study the Bible just to know more—we study it to be changed by it. God's Word is meant to shape who we are and how we live. Imagine you have a ball of Play-Doh®. If you leave it alone, it stays the same. But when you press on it, stretch it, and form it, you shape it into something new. God's Word is meant to do the same thing for us. It shapes us into the image of Jesus when we're willing to be molded by it.

ASK THESE QUESTIONS...

- What truth about God or myself do I need to trust?
- How should this shape the way I think, speak, or act?
- Is there a command to follow, a sin to turn from, or an example to follow?
- How can this passage help me grow and change for the better?
- Who can I encourage or help grow through what I've learned?

WHAT TO DO:

1. **Write** a specific action step.
 - *Instead of "I'll love others more," try: "I'll call a friend who's struggling this week to encourage them."*
2. **Pray** and ask God to help you apply what He's shown you.
3. **Talk** with someone—share what you've learned with a friend or your group.

EXAMPLE

(HOW TO DO THE STUDY METHOD)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

JOHN 3:16

SEE

- Who? Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus.
God, Jesus (the Son), and all people ("the world") are mentioned.
- Where? In Jerusalem, during a private conversation at night.
- When? During Jesus' ministry (early in the Gospel of John).
- What? God's great love led Him to give His only Son so that all who believe in Jesus have eternal life, not death.

SEARCH

What does it mean?

God's love motivated the greatest gift—His Son. Anyone (no matter background or past) who believes in Jesus receives eternal life. This is the foundation of salvation and hope.

SHAPE

How should I live it out?

God deeply loves me and made a way for me to live forever with Him. Because of this, I can live with hope, knowing I'm loved and saved. I should also share this good news with others. This week, I'll share John 3:16 with someone who needs hope.

OVERVIEW of James

AUTHOR

The book of James was **written by James, the half-brother of Jesus** (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3). Even though he grew up with Jesus, James did not believe that his brother was the Son of God at first. In fact, during Jesus' ministry, James and his other brothers doubted Him and even thought He was out of His mind (John 7:5, Mark 3:21). Everything changed after the resurrection. Jesus appeared to James personally (1 Corinthians 15:7), and this moment transformed him. James became a devoted follower of Christ and later a key leader in the early church (Acts 15:13, Galatians 1:19). Though he was not one of the twelve disciples, James became a prominent leader in the early church, particularly in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13, Galatians 1:19). His letter reflects his deep wisdom, practical teaching, and a strong call to authentic Christian living.

DATE

The book of James was likely written **between A.D. 44 and 49**. This makes it one of the first books written in the New Testament.

PURPOSE

James wanted to **remind Christians that faith should be more than just words**—it should show in how they live. He encouraged believers to keep trusting God, even when life is hard. He also taught them to be kind, control their words, and take care of those in need.

AUDIENCE

James wrote his letter **to Jewish Christians scattered across different lands** (James 1:1), a scattering known as the **Dispersion (or Diaspora)** that happened due to intense persecution.

After Jesus' resurrection, many Jews in Jerusalem became Christians, but Jewish leaders and Roman rulers saw them as a threat. In Acts 7, **Stephen was killed for his faith**, and persecution increased (Acts 8:1), forcing many to flee.

These believers scattered across the Roman Empire, including:

- **Judea & Samaria** – Nearby regions (Acts 8:1)
- **Phoenicia** – Coastal area with cities like Tyre and Sidon (Acts 11:19)
- **Cyprus** – Island where Christians preached (Acts 11:19)
- **Antioch** – Syrian city where “Christian” was first used (Acts 11:26)
- **Asia Minor (Turkey)** – Regions like Galatia, Pontus, and Cappadocia (1 Peter 1:1)
- **Rome & Beyond** – The Gospel was spread throughout the empire

These Christians left behind homes, families, and jobs, facing poverty, mistreatment, and pressure to compromise their faith. Some were oppressed by the wealthy (James 5:1–6); others struggled to stay faithful.

James wrote to **encourage** them—to trust God in trials, live out their faith, and grow spiritually, even in hardship.

LOCATION

James most likely wrote this letter from **Jerusalem**, where he was a leader in the church.



WRITING STYLE

James writes like a teacher giving wise advice. He gives clear instructions and uses examples to make his point. His letter is full of short lessons, like Proverbs, and has over 50 commands. His main message is that real faith shows in how we live.

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THE BOOK

James talks about a few important people from the Bible:

- **Abraham** (James 2:21-23), who showed his faith by trusting and obeying God.
- **Rahab** (James 2:25), who helped God's people and showed great faith.
- **Job** (James 5:11), who stayed faithful to God even when he suffered.
- **Elijah** (James 5:17-18), who prayed powerful prayers and trusted God.

WHERE JAMES FITS IN THE BIBLE

James is part of a section in the **New Testament** called the General **Epistles**. These are letters written to all Christians, not just one church. The book of James is a lot like the book of Proverbs because it gives wisdom for daily life and sometimes speaks in a creative, poetic way. It also reminds us of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), where He taught about loving others and living wisely.

CHAPTER THEMES

- Ch 1 Faith in Hard Times** – Trusting God and doing what is right.
- Ch 2 Faith in Action** – True faith is shown by our actions.
- Ch 3 Faith and Our Words** – Controlling our speech and using words wisely.
- Ch 4 Faith and the World** – Living humbly and following God's ways.
- Ch 5 Faith and Patience** – Trusting God, praying, and helping others.

“BUT DON’T JUST
LISTEN TO GOD’S
WORD. YOU MUST
DO WHAT IT SAYS.
OTHERWISE, YOU
ARE ONLY FOOLING
YOURSELVES.”

JAMES 1:22, NLT

**KEY
VERSE**

PRAYER BEFORE READING:

God, thank You for giving me the Bible. I know Your Word is powerful and true. As I read today, help me see what’s really there, search for what it means, and be shaped by it in my heart. I want to grow closer to You and live the way You want me to. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

LET'S GET STARTED!

Now that you've learned how to study the Bible using the *SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE* method and you've had a chance to get to know the book of James, it's time to jump in and start the journey!

This journal will walk you through **16 weeks** of study as we go through the book of James together. Whether you're at home reading your Bible or sitting in service on Sunday, this journal is a place for you to learn, reflect, and grow.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND EACH WEEK:

A page for Sunday sermon notes

Bring your journal with you to church every week and write down what stands out to you.

5 daily Bible readings

Each week has five short verses or passages to help you spend time with God Monday through Friday. These verses go along with the themes in James and will help you grow in your faith each day.

Space to use the **SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE** method

For each day's reading, you'll use the tools you've learned and look closely at the passage, note all the details, think about what it means, and see how God wants to grow you through it.

HERE'S HOW EACH DAY IS FOCUSED:

- **Day 1: Something About God** – Learn about who God is and what He's like.
- **Day 2: Something to Pursue** – Discover what God wants to grow in your life.
- **Day 3: Something to Avoid** – Notice what God asks us to stay away from.
- **Day 4: Something to Live By** – Find wise truths to guide your life.
- **Day 5: Something to Stand On** – Cling to God's promises when life gets hard.

Now it's your turn! Grab a pen, open your Bible, and let God's Word speak to your heart. Week 1 starts on the next page—let's begin!



WEEK 1

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!

James 1:1



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 1

Grab your Bible and study
using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE
method this week!

DAY 1: ISAIAH 6:3

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: GALATIANS 5:22-23

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: GALATIANS 5:19-21

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 4: PROVERBS 3:5-6

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 2

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

James 1:2



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 2

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: EXODUS 34:6

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: MATTHEW 5:2-12

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: PROVERBS 6:16-19

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 4: PROVERBS 3:5-6

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 3

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God,
and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke
you for asking. But when you ask him, be
sure that your faith is in God alone.

James 1:5



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 3

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: PSALM 147:5

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: MATTHEW 5:14-16

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: MATTHEW 6:1

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

WEEK 3

DAY 4: ECCLESIASTES 7:12

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

1. SEE

Who? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: MATTHEW 6:19-21

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

1. SEE

Who? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 4

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 4

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: NAHUM 1:7

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: MATTHEW 7:1-6

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 4: PSALM 119:11

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

1. SEE

Who? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: JAMES 1:12

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

1. SEE

Who? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

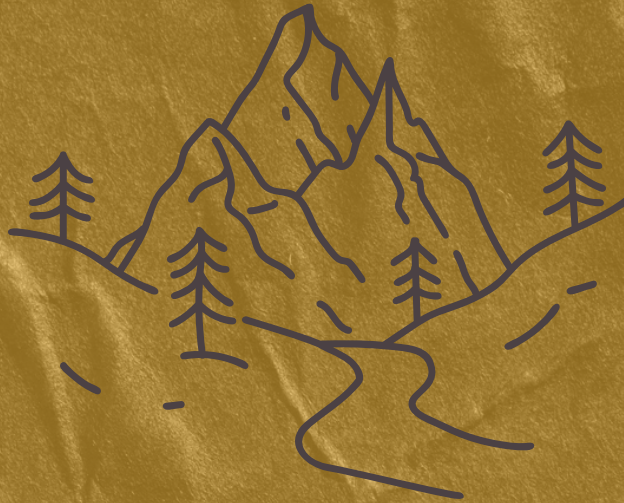
What? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 5

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

James 1:16



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 5

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: PSALM 33:4-5

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: COLOSSIANS 3: 5-10

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 4: PROVERBS 30:5

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: HEBREWS 10:23

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 6

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

James 1:19



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 6

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: DEUTERONOMY 7:9

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

DAY 2: COLOSSIANS 3:11-17

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

DAY 3: ROMANS 12:2

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

WEEK 6

DAY 4: PSALM 119:105

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: MATTHEW 7:24-27

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 7

There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

James 2:13



Date: _____ Speaker: _____ Main Passage: _____

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 7

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: DEUTERONOMY 10:17

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

DAY 2: EPHESIANS 4:1-16

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

DAY 3: EPHESIANS 4:17-32

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

DAY 4: PROVERBS 22:2

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: GALATIANS 6:9

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?



WEEK 8

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?

James 2:14



Date:

Speaker:

Main Passage:

Notes:

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

WEEK 8

Grab your Bible and study using the SEE, SEARCH, SHAPE method this week!

DAY 1: TITUS 3:4-5

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING ABOUT GOD

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 2: ROMANS 12:9-21

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO PURSUE

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 3: ROMANS 13:8-14

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO AVOID

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 4: LUKE 6:46

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO LIVE BY

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

DAY 5: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

1. SEE

Who? _____

When? _____

2. SEARCH

What does it mean?

SOMETHING TO STAND ON

Where? _____

What? _____

3. SHAPE

How should I live it out?

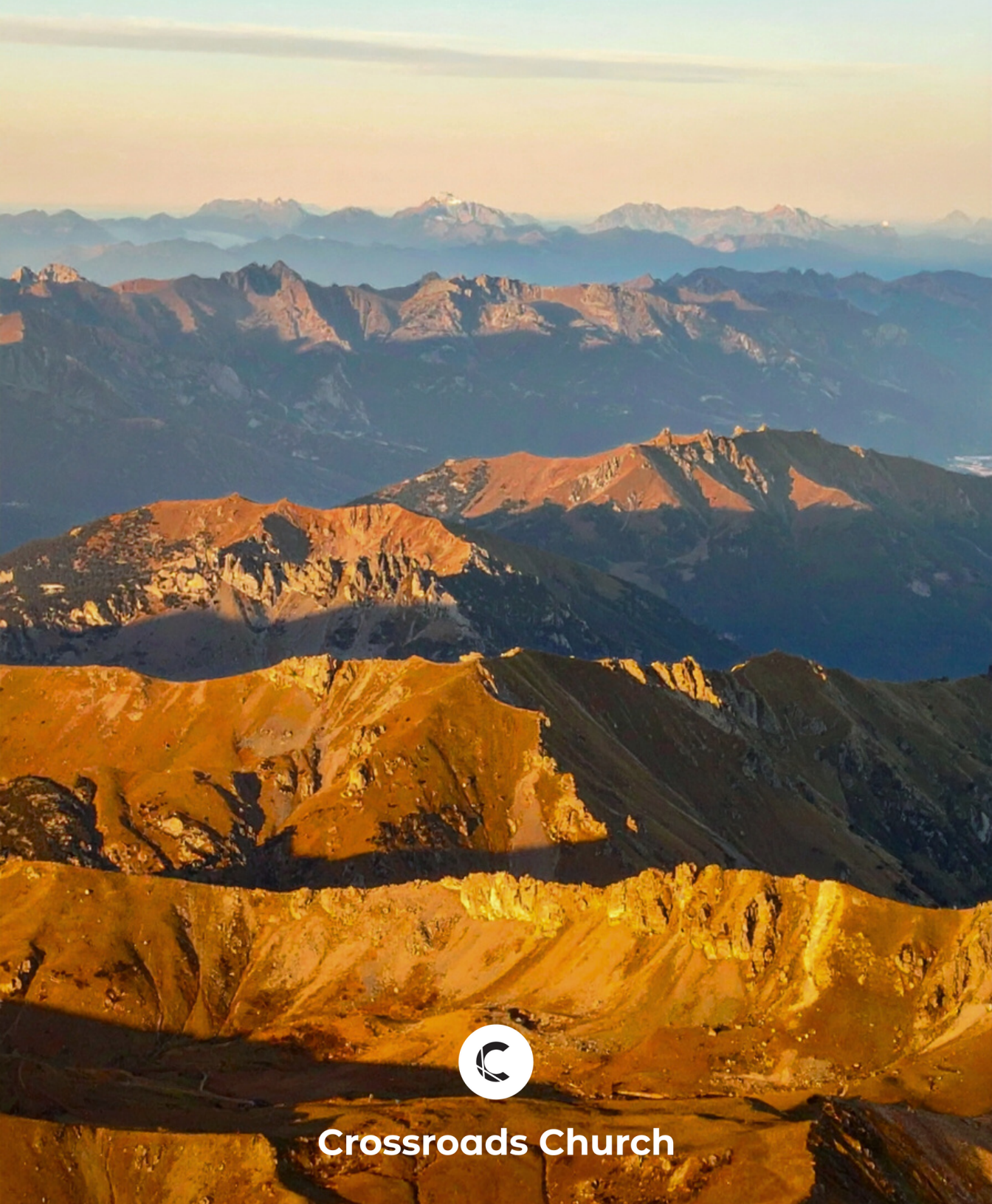
YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE!

You're halfway through the James Study—way to go!

This journey through James isn't over yet, and we're excited for what's still ahead. Part 2 picks up right where you left off and will guide you through the rest of the book, helping you continue to grow in understanding and application.

Part 2 is available at all campuses!

KEEP GOING! GOD'S NOT DONE.



Crossroads Church