

**James 1:5 – 8**

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

2 To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

3 <sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter  
4 various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith  
5 produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect  
6 result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in  
7 nothing.8 <sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who  
9 gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be  
10 given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any  
11 doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea,  
12 driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to  
13 expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> *being*  
14 a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.How would you define key words in the passage?  
What other words might express the same ideas?

- Wisdom
- Generous
- Reproach
- Doubt
- Double-minded
- Unstable

**Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.****Review the shaded portion from last week, and focus on vv. 5-8.****Observation (What does it say?):**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Underline words describing God.
- Circle conditions for those seeking wisdom.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage:

- What defines a person who gives generously?
- Why would reproach be a concern?
- What different forms can doubt take?
- How might a doubting “double-minded” person respond to a generous giver?
- What other questions come to mind?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- Where do you “lack wisdom” as it relates to this passage? Where is it difficult not to doubt? Are there areas where you feel tossed and unstable?

**For additional thought and discussion:**

“doubt” (διακρίνω, *diakrinō*)

**Negative:**

- **Hesitation** to obey perplexing command (“Rise and eat.” - Acts 10:20)
- **Waver** in unbelief (Romans 4:20)
- **Making distinctions** among people (James 2:4)

**Positive:**

- **Interpret** the weather (Matthew 16:3)
- No **distinction** in salvation (Acts 15:9)
- **Settle dispute** between brothers (1 Corinthians 6:5)
- **Discern** the body in Communion (1 Corinthians 11:29)

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** **(What does it say?)**

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** **(What does it mean?)**

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** **(What does it mean for me?)**

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.