

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

### Lesson 59

#### James

#### Objects to have:

The sign for this new Bible book: JAMES

Others Watch You

Pictures of: Two big eyes  
Two big ears  
Two big hands  
A big mouth

A bulletin board or a flannelboard

Your Bible.

#### Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the eyes.) People are watching. We say that we have trusted Jesus. We say that we love Jesus. People are watching to see if we really mean that. After we have trusted Jesus as our Saviour, we want to do right in order to please Him. People are watching to see if we are kind, if we are loving, if we do the work that we are supposed to do. When people see us keeping our hands to ourselves and not bothering someone else and not touching things that do not belong to us, then they can think, "They are acting like Christians." When people see us smiling at each other and not being grumpy, they can think, "They are acting like Christians." When people see us being kind to others, they think, "They are acting loving as Jesus commands us to be." People are watching to see whether we really love Jesus.

(Put the eyes on the board, and pick up the ears.) People are listening. We say that we love Jesus, that we have trusted Jesus as our Saviour. People are listening; they want to know whether we really mean that. After we have trusted Jesus as our Saviour, we want to do right because He loves us so much. People are listening; they hear us when we tell the truth. Jesus wants us always to be truthful, and not to tell a lie. People are listening; they hear us when we speak kindly and politely to other people. They hear us when we say, "Excuse me"; when we say, "Thank you"; when we say, "Please." They hear us when we say, "You go in front of me." People are listening; they hear us when we ask permission before we take something or before we do something. People are listening; they hear us when we say, "Jesus loves you, too, and He wants you to be saved." When we talk the way we should talk, and when we act the way we should act, then people will think that having Jesus to be their Saviour is a good thing. When we talk the way we should talk, and when we act the way we should act, then other Christian people will be so pleased with us!

(Put the ears on the board, and pick up the hands.) People are watching and people are listening and some people are holding out their hands. Some people need help, and they are holding out their hands. They are saying, "You love Jesus. I know that you will help me." They are asking, "I would like to be with you. Could I play with you. Could we share toys and play together?" We love Jesus, and they know that Jesus would have us share and help and give.

(Put the hands on the board, and pick up the mouth.) People are watching, and people are listening. People are holding out their hands to us. We want to do right; we want to please Jesus. We want to talk right. Sometimes it is hard to do right. I know how we can get help to do right. We should ask Jesus to help us. Sometimes we don't know what to do; sometimes we don't know what is right to say. We should ask Jesus to let us know what is right to do and to say. Knowing what is right to do is called having wisdom. We need wisdom to know the right things to do. God says, "Ask Me for wisdom. I will never scold you when you ask for wisdom. If you trust Me, I will always give you wisdom whenever you ask for it."

(Put the mouth on the board, and pick up your Bible.) It is the Bible that tells us how to act. (Open your Bible to the book of James.) Our new Bible book for today is the book of James. In the book of James we read the

commandment, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." James wanted everyone to know, "God will tell you what to do; He will give you lots and lots of wisdom, so ask Him."

Telling the story:

There was more than one James in the Bible. Sometimes in a room here in Sunday school we have more than one person who is named James. In the Bible there is the James who was a fisherman, and he was the brother of John, and their daddy was Zebedee. In the Bible there is another James; he is called James the Less. Another James wrote the words that are in the Bible book of James. I'll tell you about the James who wrote the book of James in the New Testament of the Bible.

(Put down your Bible.) James lived in a house with four brothers and with some sisters. We don't know the whole number of children in that house. Their mother's name was Mary. James was not the oldest boy in the house; Jesus was the oldest boy. Jesus was the Son of God, but when He came to earth from Heaven, He came to live in the house of Mary and Joseph. Then other children were born into that family; there were four more boys and there were some girls.

It was hard for James to understand Who Jesus really was. James knew that Jesus was his brother, but James did not understand that Jesus was really God the Son—the Son of God. Even when somebody told James Who Jesus was, James would not accept Jesus as his Saviour. James just would not trust Jesus as his Saviour.

Then came time for Jesus to leave home. It was time for Jesus to travel all around the country, teaching the Word of God and preaching to people about their sins and their need for a Saviour. Jesus traveled from Nazareth where he had lived with Mary and Joseph and with James and with the other brothers and with the sisters. Even when people heard Jesus preach, James still would not accept Him as his Saviour. The people around Nazareth were saying, "Who is this Jesus? He is just a carpenter like Joseph, who has now died, was a carpenter. Who is this Jesus? His mother is Mary, and here we have James his brother and the other brothers and sisters. What makes Jesus so special?" The people of the town of Nazareth would not accept Jesus as their Saviour, and neither would James.

Terrible news came one day to Nazareth: Jesus, who was in Jerusalem then, was arrested by soldiers. Jesus was put on trial. Jesus was whipped. Jesus was crowned with a crown of thorns. Jesus was led away to Calvary to be crucified. Jesus died on the cross, but strange and frightening things happened while He was hanging on the cross. It became as dark as night on that day; there was an earthquake. No one had to kill Jesus; He just let the living part of Him leave His body. His dead body was placed in a tomb in a beautiful garden just down the hill from Calvary.

James was someplace close by Jerusalem. He heard all that had happened to Jesus. He was thinking about all these things which he had heard. What terrible things had happened! After three days and three nights, the news went all around the city and all around the country, "Jesus has risen from the dead. Some people have seen Him."

Then James saw Him! It was then that in his heart James knew that Jesus was the Son of God. James said, "I believe in You now, Jesus. I need You to be my Saviour. Please forgive my sins. Please be my Saviour." In that very moment James was saved.

Jesus always saves everyone who admits that he is a sinner and who asks Jesus to be his Saviour.

Some days after that, Jesus went back to Heaven. James was left on earth with all the other people around Jerusalem who loved Jesus.

One day God said, "James, I want you to be a preacher." God spoke to the hearts of other Christians in Jerusalem. God said to them, "Ask James to become the pastor of your church in Jerusalem." The people obeyed God, and James obeyed God, and James became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem.

There were a lot of Jewish people in Jerusalem. They needed to know more about the Bible, and they needed to know more about how they should live to please God. James preached to the people. Some people moved away from Jerusalem, and some people moved into Jerusalem. Many, many more Jewish people trusted Jesus as their Saviour.

James loved the people to whom he preached. He saw that they needed help in living right. James preached that they should ask God for help, that they should ask Him for wisdom to live right.

Then God talked to James and said, “James, you need to write down the words that you have been preaching. Other Christians all over the world need to know that they should ask for wisdom to live right.” God told James what words to write, and James wrote down those words, and we have them here in our Bible (pick up your Bible), in the book called James.

James was a man who would never stop doing what God told him to do, because James loved Jesus as his Saviour. Even when the people in the city told James to stop preaching about Jesus, James would not stop.

One day was the happiest day of all for James. It was a sad day for people who loved James, their preacher. Some of those wicked people who did not want James to preach about Jesus killed James. That was the happiest day of all of James’ life because then he went to Heaven to live with Jesus.

Remember what James wrote, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...and it shall be given him.” Pray; ask Jesus for help to live right, for help to obey His commandments.

We have talked about many books of the Bible in Sunday school. Let’s say the names of the books that are in the New Testament—the books that we have talked about so far. (Do this with the children.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: James 1:5, “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God...and it shall be given him.”