

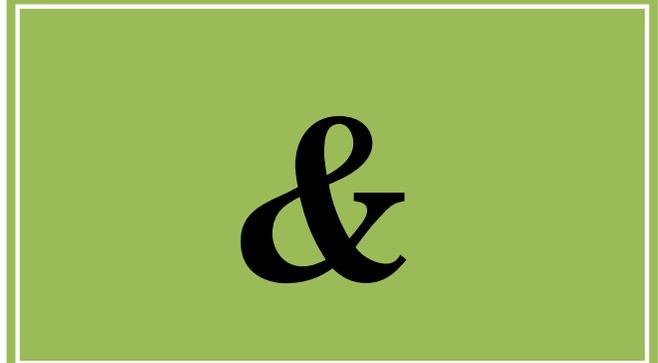
LIVING INTO OUR FAITH – STUDY OF JAMES & PSALMS



2014 Summer Breeze Online Bible Study

**Connect via Telephone / Mobile
Devices & Computer / Internet**

**Every Thursday in July @ 7:30 p.m.
Dates: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**



1. How does it work?

- Online Bible Study operates by both computer and telephone to connect people who are studying God's word together from home, work, or on the road.
- Call to connect: **(724) 444-7444** enter Call ID **130638** and **1# to listen / participate**
- Connect via the computer by: go to <http://www.talkshoe.com/tc/130638>

2. What are the dates and times for the Summer Breeze - James Study?

- Every Thursday in July starting on July 3, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.
- Final date for this study is Thursday, July 31, 2014 @ 7:30 p.m.

3. How does the study work?

- The study begins at 7:30 p.m. with prayer, scripture, dialogue and teaching about the focus scripture for each week (see attached study guide). Persons are invited to serve as readers and prayer leaders for each week. If you want to serve, please contact Dr. Jacqui King at pastorJ@joneshigherwayumc.com.
- Participants on the telephone ask questions and respond when invited by Dr. King; participants on the computer can type their thoughts and questions in the text box. Their responses are shared with all by Dr. Jacqui King, who leads the study. This interactive experience offers a time of learning for all.
- Since we study about 45 minutes, our wrap-up normally begins around 8:10 to allow for prayer requests and closing thoughts to be expressed prior to sharing the prayer and announcements at 8:15 p.m.

OVERVIEW OF LIVING INTO FAITH – STUDY OF JAMES & PSALMS

Purpose: Study and connect through dialogue, journaling and prayer about living into faith.

Action: Take time to explore key questions:

- Pulse Check - What does my faith look like today?
- Scriptural Connection and Today's Impact / Prayer
- What are the next actions? What does faith look like thru Praise, Promise and Plans?

DATE	FOCUS	SCRIPTURE
JULY 3	FAITH THROUGH TRIALS	JAMES 1 PSALM 45 AND PSALM 72
JULY 10	FAITH VS. FAVORITISM	JAMES 2 PSALM 124 AND PSALM 125
JULY 17	FAITH & WISDOM: POWER OVER YOUR TONGUE	JAMES 3 PSALM 1 AND PSALM 120
JULY 24	FAITH: WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD?	JAMES 4 PSALM 18 AND PSALM 138
JULY 31	FAITH AND PRAYER EMBRACE FAITH TO THE FULLEST!	JAMES 5 PSALM 12 AND PSALM 123

Things to Ponder - General Focus for Online Thursday / Book of James:

- ◆ Pulse Check: How is my Faith looking today?
- ◆ General Themes (Teaching Moments): How does the passage call your name? What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why? (Make the Scriptural Connection through prayer and journaling)
- ◆ What do you want to know about faith? _____
- ◆ Impact today...How to Live into Faith? _____
- ◆ Identify your Action Commitment for current week: _____

Ask yourself, "How will my faith in Jesus Christ help me to move ahead by taking action?"

- ◆ The Funny Faith Moment of the week is _____
- ◆ Questions about faith? _____
- ◆ Community Prayer Request:

- ◆ Mission Idea: _____

Faith Through Trials – July 3, 2014

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? This is a personal faith statement to help each person identify and connect with where they are located in their own faith at the moment. This is a place to get real within your own heart and seek God openly. Today, my faith is strong and I believe that I am being stretched to see God's hand move on the hearts of persons who are being sent to me daily as the launch team is coming together.
- ◆ **General Themes** (Teaching Moments): How does the passage call your name? **James:** Temptation / Obedience / Trails that bring Maturity – How does this happen in our lives? **Psalms:** Theme of generations – praise the Lord (Psalm 72: 17-19 – righteousness / deeds), persevering spirit to pursue marriage in the midst of challenges. Identify with songs of grace and righteousness. Recognize the need for faith to guard our hearts as we move through life. These passages call for faithful action and powerful praise!
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** In my journaling this week, I wrote a great deal about a faith that renews our love with Jesus Christ and our own heart. When life happens and our attention moves away from the focus that God gives us for that day, faith is what helps us to reconnect with love. Our hope in Jesus Christ refuels our hearts to believe again. Through that belief, our faith is strengthened because the trial or tribulation did not destroy our heart because God's grace and love sustained us by faith. What grabbed my attention in James is a **call for action** and in the Psalms readings the reminders to *lift up praise to God*. The prayer is to believe that our faith is able to step out!
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...I was wondering about XYZ? Since the words of James 1:22 calls us into action, what keeps us from taking the first step forward by faith? What about faith through our trails...are our actions making our faith stronger?
- ◆ **Impact today...**How to Live into Faith? Identify your Action Commitment for current week: I am committed by faith to embrace balance to help me improve my temple management. How will your faith help to move ahead by taking action? My faith will help me stay strong in the midst of a great season of spiritual growth and renewal. I am renewed by faith.
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment:** Think about something that made you laugh this week and share it with the persons on the call. _____

- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for staff & students at KIPP Sunnyside and all students & school staffs throughout the Houston Area; making commitments on serving during Mission Month and mission projects; persons who want are looking for employment.
- ◆ **Questions about Jones Memorial UMC?** What is elbowing? The elbow is a personal action process of inviting people you know to connect with Jesus Christ in a new way via a new faith experience. Since everyone does not have a faith relationship and a spiritual home, elbowing is extending the invitation that someone gave you. During this invitation they are encouraged to meet Jesus Christ right where they are through prayer, worship, service and study. All are invited to connect with us at www.joneshigherwayumc.com to check out all the mission and ministry going on at Jones Memorial UMC.

Faith vs. Favoritism – July 10, 2014

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? This is a personal faith statement to help each person identify and connect with where they are located in their own faith at the moment. Getting real and living real requires us to reflect upon how our faith is embraced on a daily basis.
- ◆ **General Themes (Teaching Moments):** How does the passage call your name? **James:** Chooses involve faith, mercy, love and service – do we respond by faith or favoritism? **Psalms:** Theme of deliverance and enduring trust in the Lord (Psalm 124: 1-5 and Psalm 125: 1, 4-5). These passages have a common ground to direct humanity to do good and acknowledgement of the evil that can happen when we ignore Godly instructions in our lives. Recognize the need for faith to guard our hearts as we move through all aspects of life. These passages call again for righteousness, faith and powerful praise!
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** In my journaling this week, I wrote a great deal about reliance on a faith that shows love through action and how my life shows mercy. When mercy is pleaded for us, faith has to be in place to bridge those places where favoritism would have a natural strength. The prayer is to believe that our faith in Jesus Christ will keep us without causing us to “call in favorites.” Faith is enough.
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...how has favoritism impacted you? James 2: 1-4 and 24-26 offers directions telling us not to engage in acts of favoritism but in acts of faithful work. Favoritism has impacted me by making me aware of how judgment calls us to make decisions based solely upon eternal elements. Acts of faith include mercy (vs. 13)
- ◆ **Impact today...**How to Live into Faith? Identify your Action Commitment for current week: I started walking in the community as my action to “show faith without works is dead.” How will your faith help to move ahead by taking action? My faith will help me stay strong in the midst of a great season of spiritual growth and renewal. I am renewed by faith.
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment** of the week is “what happens when we pray?” _____

- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for staff & students at all schools throughout the Houston Area; making commitments on serving others; persons who want to live into their faith; persons who want to be healed.
- ◆ **Questions and reflections about Jones Memorial UMC?** What is evangelism? Sharing our faith story with someone as a testimony is at the heart of evangelism. All persons who believe in Jesus Christ have a journey. Evangelism encourages people of God to continue growing spiritually by loving God, praying, serving, forgiving one another, and inviting others to know Jesus’ love. Each person can make a commitment to pray and encourage one another to seek Jesus. As you reflect upon the book of James, think about the power of your tongue; ask yourself how can my faith in Jesus help me to speak love and serve to support positive actions on my job or at home / school / church?

Faith & Wisdom – July 17, 2014

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? This is a personal faith statement to help each person identify and connect with where they are located in their own faith at the moment. My faith is strong today and I am grateful to God for that strength. I pray for increase in my faith on a daily basis and I am speaking blessings over each day.
- ◆ **General Themes** (Teaching Moments): How does the passage call your name? **James:** Calls humanity to understand the power in the tongue; to recognize the “fire and spark” that can be created by the spoken word. What are we saying to ourselves and others that is uplifting a spirit of peace? **Psalms:** Pay attention to Psalm 1: 5-6 as teaching moments about the consequences for both the righteous and wicked persons. Seek to embrace God through a calling out unto the Lord in Psalm 120: 1-2, 7. Many actions reinforced by the Psalms remind us that there are benefits for having wisdom over our tongues. Has your lips / words caused any ships to sink around you this week? Who do you need to apologize to for speaking “unkind words” instead of wise words of peace?
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** In my journaling this week, I struggled with the “pains from the tongue” because the passage tells how the small size of our tongues can create so much fire. I thought about the pains that words create and how we believe the child statement of “sticks and stones may hurt my bones but words will never hurt me.” How will the peace in your words today offer love to a hurting person?
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...Is your tongue blessing or cursing more? As you reflect upon the power of your tongue, ask yourself how can wisdom help my tongue to speak peace and serve to support wisdom on my job or at home / school / church?
- ◆ **Impact today...**How to Live into Faith? Identify your Action Commitment for current week: I started thanking God for my evening walks. So many times I talk myself out of walking but the praise offers me a chance to thank God for the day and the restful sleep is great!
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment** of the week is “when you have faith @ Walmart?”

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- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for persons seeking employment, college students, families who are moving to new communities, and healing! Pray about how to live boldly for Jesus Christ and apply the lessons from James and Psalms to help serve others beyond our church.
 - ◆ **Questions and reflections about Jones Memorial UMC?** What does it mean to serve others? All persons who believe in Jesus Christ are called by God to serve others. Growing spiritually involves learning about God, praying, serving, forgiving one another, and loving God. Each person can make a commitment to serve in a ministry and follow through by serving. As you reflect upon the book of James, think about the power of your tongue, ask yourself how can wisdom help my tongue to speak peace and serve to support wisdom on my job or at home / school / church?

Faith & Friendship with God – July 24, 2014

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? This is a personal faith statement to help each person identify and connect with where they are located in their own faith at the moment. My faith today is good and I am prayerful for all things! This was a tough week.
- ◆ **General Themes** (Teaching Moments): How does the passage call your name? **James 5:** Calls me into a place of encouragement and awareness; friendship with God calls us into action with intentional release of the world's friendship. What are we really asked to do in James? **Psalms 12 and 123:** What are the consequences and actions highlighted in the passages?
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** In my journaling this week, I found myself reflecting upon the word friendship. What does that really mean to have a friendship with Jesus Christ? Is it the same as having a best friend for life? Are you humbled that Jesus loves you enough to call you friend? Listen to music that encourages us to explore that friendship...what are we really called to do in that friendship? Can you love God, self and neighbor to be a friend and allow God to love you first? What got my attention were the expectations of our friendship with Jesus Christ.
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...Is your friendship real with Jesus? What does the James and Psalms passages tell us about friendship with Jesus Christ? Is your friendship bearing fruits of peace and service in your community?
- ◆ **Impact today...**How to Live into Faith? Identify your Action Commitment for current week: I started thanking God for my faith in our friendship. So many times I want to challenge the world but James gives sound support to build a strong friendship with Jesus that is greater than the world's definition of friendship. Are you willing to be a true friend to Jesus? Are we telling the world about hope, love and grace through our friendship with Jesus?
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment:** Describe what "taking the leap of patience" looks like.

- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for staff & students at schools in the Houston Area; making commitments on missions projects; persons who want to live into their faith; persons who want to be healed, and families who are serving together.
- ◆ **Questions about Jones Memorial UMC?** How do I connect with ministry opportunities? Come celebrate and experience worship every week at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Check out the website at www.joneshigherwayumc.com and review the ministry options for all ages. There is Sunday School, Small Groups, Mission & Outreach, Worship Ministries, Bible Studies, Congregational Care, and more. Connect with our ministry leaders or send an email to their address on the website. Pray about your gifts and share them as you grow in your faith.

Faith & Prayer – July 31, 2014

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? This is a personal faith statement to help each person identify and connect with where they are located in their own faith at the moment. My faith today is good and I am prayerful for all things! The week was great!
- ◆ **General Themes** (Teaching Moments): How does the passage call your name? **James 5:** Are you rich? Are you mindful of sickness and are you suffering alone? What part does prayer play in healing? What does the community of believers do for a person who is sick? James encourages us to ask for help from the elders. Prayer is a way of living into our faith. Are you ignoring the gift of prayer because you believe you must pray like a certain person? Prayer is talking and listening; speaking and believing...prayer is connecting belief and action with God directing our pathways. **Psalms 12 and 123:** Are you living with a spirit of arrogance? Is your help in God...are you accessing that help?
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** Prayer is fundamental in our Christian journeys. There is responsibility in the body of Christ to pray and take action. Sickness is part of life but the healing comes from God and the body is expected to call on one another for prayer / support. Why do we struggle with complete trust / faith in God?
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...How is your relationship with Jesus shaped by prayer? What does the James and Psalms passages tell us about praying to Jesus Christ? What are you hoping that Jesus Christ will do through you today?
- ◆ **Impact today**...How to Live into Faith? Identify your Action Commitment for current week: I write in a prayer journal that has previous prayers listed. The commitment for me this week was to celebrate God's grace in spite of the challenges. Living into my faith is the acknowledgement of "test" in testimony and "pray" in the praise moments.
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment** of the week is following God's lead. Have you ever wanted to run ahead of God? Tell a funny moment when you ran ahead of God: _____

- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for staff & students at schools in the Houston Area; making commitments on missions projects; persons who want to live into their faith; persons who want to be healed, and families who are serving together. Praying for preparation, clarity, and purpose for all students who are returning to school during August.
- ◆ **Questions about Jones Memorial UMC?** How do I connect with ministry opportunities? Come celebrate and experience worship every week at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Check out the website at www.joneshigherwayumc.com and review the ministry options for all ages. There is Sunday School, Small Groups, Mission & Outreach, Worship Ministries, Bible Studies, Congregational Care, and more. Connect with our ministry leaders or send an email to their address on the website. Pray about your gifts and share them as you grow in your faith.

Faith & New Life – Moving Forward

General Focus for Study @:

- ◆ **Pulse Check:** How is my Faith looking today? How has this study helped us address Faith and New Life? For me, new life and spiritual growth go hand-in-hand and the lessons taught through James and the Psalms helped to look at faith in new ways. My faith and resolve to grow in grace has been strengthened by this study.
- ◆ **General Themes (Teaching Moments):** How did the book of James call your name and/or step on your toes? **James 1-5:** James 1: 2-7 provides instructions about developing spiritual maturity; James 2: 1-8 offers us awareness about humanity not showing favoritism and how our faith builds through works; James 3 – Tongue management is required; James 4: Friendship with God has relationship accountability for our actions and what we do in the world; James 5: gives insights about how we live, patience and prayers **Psalms 150 and 23:** Praise and thanksgiving offer some of the greatest opportunities for love of Christ to be shared and grace to be received by all. These Psalms are well known and this study offers each of us a new moment to express that praise to a true and living God.
- ◆ **What grabs your attention in the scriptures and why?** The study of James grabbed me by its practical applications, which allow us to employ our faith in everyday moments. The Psalms stretched me at times because some were familiar while others seemed to be brand new. All the passages caused me to embrace grace, which is unmerited favor of God to walk into my faith with newness. I was humbled by this study and your presence.
- ◆ **What do you want to know?** Questions...How is your relationship with Jesus been reshaped by the book of James? What does the James and Psalms passages tell us about our faith journey? What are you hoping that Jesus Christ will do through you today?
- ◆ **Impact today...**How to Live into Our Faith? Take a moment to write your faith story:

- ◆ What ministries are you being called by God to serve in? _____
- ◆ **The Funny Faith Moment:** Share those funny moments with each other.
- ◆ **Upcoming Online Bible Studies:** Fall Small Group Studies will start in October 2014 (check www.joneshigherwayumc.com for details in September 2014)
- ◆ **Prayer Request:** Pray for all the persons lifted up during the Online Bible Study. Pray for needs of our community. Pray for staff & students at schools in the Houston Area; making commitments on missions projects; persons who want to live into their faith; persons who want to be healed, and families who are serving together. Praying for preparation, clarity, and purpose for all students who are returning to school during August.
- ◆ **Questions about Jones Memorial UMC?** How do I connect with ministry opportunities? Come celebrate and experience worship every week at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Check out the website at www.joneshigherwayumc.com and review the ministry options for all ages. There is Sunday School, Small Groups, Mission & Outreach, Worship Ministries, Bible Studies, Congregational Care, and more. Connect with our ministry leaders or send an email to their address on the website. Pray about your gifts and share them as you grow in your faith.