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# A Curriculum for Teaching the Epistles of James on the Adult Level

Jerry Edward Emra

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A CURRICULUM FOR TEACHING THE EPISTLE  
OF JAMES ON THE ADULT LEVEL

by

Jerry Edward Emra

A Research Project  
submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the  
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Approved by:

Major Professor:

*Allen C. Adell*

Date:

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My wife, Pam, has worked hard to make our home a quiet place for study and thought. She makes Proverbs 31:10-31 come alive every day.

Jerry E. Emra

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## INTRODUCTION

This Sunday School lesson book was written for teacher's at the adult level. It will be used and improved by the author serving as the first of many quarterly booklets to be written in the future.

The first purpose of this book is to lead adults to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation and the forgiveness of sins. All Christian teaching must have this purpose first and foremost.

Christians must also grow in their relationship with Christ. The second purpose, therefore, is very important. The relationship between grace and the works that each Christian must perform is vital. I believe that in teaching the epistle of James, growth in spiritual maturity will take place.

The leader using this handbook will first read the epistle of James, this book, and other related scripture and books in depth. After thorough reading, the leader will find that each lesson and the instructions are self-explanatory. Each leader must put his/her own personality into the lesson plan.

The only part of the lesson where change is not recommended is in the introduction where transparencies are used. There are at least two transparencies for each lesson. The numbers correspond with the number of the lesson, for instance 2a and 2b. The first transparency for each lesson is a thought provoking, discussion

starter. The second transparency for each lesson is used in combination with the KNOW, FEEL, DO overlay. Place that week's overlay on the overhead first. Then place the KNOW, FEEL, DO overlay on top. When the top overlay is removed, the session material can be recorded below the topic headings. An erasable Vis-A-Vis pen should be used for these notes.

It is the author's hope that this work will become a valuable tool for many teachers in the future.

## LIMITATIONS

In the process of research, I became aware of some limitations. Although none of these were insurmountable, it would have been helpful to have (1) a better knowledge of Greek and (2) more class experience in Christian Education.

I was fortunate to have available almost every Greek language reference book although the time factor prohibited me from the study of every word of James in Greek.

The matter of class experience seemed formidable when starting this project. When I realized that familiarity with the books in my bibliography would compare favorably with a Christian Education major, this limitation seemed less important.

Finally it is assumed by this author that anyone who uses this book will do more research and add more personal illustrations than are found here. Because time and space would not allow, I was unable to put all my research into print.



## METHOD OF PROCEDURE

### Preliminary Reading:

The epistle of James was read twenty-five times in full. Each reading was done in one sitting. Each book cited in the bibliography was useful in research, writing, or in the principles of teaching.

### Preliminary Writing:

The epistle of James was outlined by the major teachings divisions paying attention to the important words of each division in the original language.

### Final Writing:

The lessons were arranged in order of presentation using many of the books in the bibliography including commentaries, dictionaries, and teaching aids.

### Illustration:

The transparencies were drawn to introduce each lesson and create discussion.

## JUSTIFICATION

I have been observing people in their Christian growth for ten years. I have found that many new Christians of my own generation have a difficult time growing in Christ because they have not had regular church attendance and even minimal Biblical education as children. The life style of the world that has been so deeply engrained into their habits and works is totally contrary to God. A new life style is necessary after the new birth even for those who have grown up in the Church. How much more does the Sunday School teacher need to educate the person who is completely ignorant of God's ways?

As a minister, I would first recommend the gospel of John to the new Christian. In my opinion, he needs to understand the love of God first. Secondly, and the subject of this study will be to teach the Christian the relationship between faith and actions. I have personally lead people to Christ who were living in terrible immorality and sin who gladly accepted God's love and forgiveness but were later quite upset to learn that they would ~~have~~ to completely change habits of almost twenty years. I believe that the study of James will help lead to Christian growth and start the new Christian on the way to maturity.

Lesson #1

James: History and Purpose

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 1:1

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.

Matt. 13:55

"Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called  
Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

I. Cor. 15:7

Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

Gal. 1:19

But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the  
Lord's brother.

Session Focus:

Discover the purpose of James' letter and learn of his life before and after becoming a follower of Christ.

Session Aim:

Know: Some of James' life history and the purpose of his letter.

Feel: The emotions of James and his relationship to Jesus.

Do: Memorize the central verse of James' epistle to help the learner understand the importance of works in relation to faith.

Session Outline:

- I. James' Family Life
- II. James' Calling and Ministry
- III. Purpose of James' Epistle
- IV. Conclusion

Session Overview:

I. Although there are three men called James in scripture, (1) James, the son of Alphaeus, and (2) James, the son of Zebedee, (3) James, the brother (half brother) of Jesus is worthy of study for obvious reasons. Matt. 13:55 and Mark 6:3-4 imply that James was against his brother and was offended by Him in His earthly ministry.

One discussion question for the class could be, "How would I react to my brother if I discovered he was Christ?"

II. James conversion and calling was special. Jesus appeared to James in His resurrected body (I Cor. 15:7) for a personal meeting. James must have been very talented for Jesus to pick for a one on one meeting. Paul met James in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-21), when James was helping to lead the early church. In Gal. 2:9 Paul calls James a "pillar" of the church and in Gal. 1:19 it is generally believed that James was working as one of the apostles.

III. James starts his letter with the words ". . . a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . " Even the most spiritual and elevated of Christians is no more than a servant of God. Many believe that James wrote to combat Paul's teachings on justification by faith. Actually James was written before Romans. James is just saying that the proof of faith is in works. "Faith" and "Works" are used 12 and 13 times respectively showing good balance in the letter. James is most concerned about a practical way of living a Holy life in times of ease or trial.

#### Session Plan:

- I. Fellowship: 5-10 minutes
- II. Bible study and Discussion: 35 minutes
- III. Activity for the Week: 5 minutes
- IV. Conclusion: 10 minutes

Materials Needed:

- I. Coffee and Tea
- II. Overhead projector to introduce the lesson - Transparency  
#1
- III. Extra Bibles for guests who may not have one

Methods for Teaching the Session:

Option (1) The whole class will meet in one group. The leader will read or have different people read a verse or paragraph. The class would be free to discuss the thought before moving on to the next verses. The leader should be careful to regulate discussion so that the lesson can be completed in 35 minutes.

At the conclusion of the class period, have a prayer time for decisions concerning the lesson. Ask the Lord to help each person read their Bible daily this week.

Option (2) Break into three groups after a short lecture by the leader. Give each group a section of the session outline to research and discuss.

Group I - James Family Life - Matt. 13:55, Mark 6:3-4

Group II - James Calling and Ministry - I Cor. 15:7,  
Acts 15:13-21

Group III - Purpose of James Epistle - James 2:26

The group meeting will be 15 minutes and each group will report for as much as five minutes.

At the conclusion of the class period, have a prayer time for decisions concerning the lesson. Ask the Lord to help each person read their Bible daily this week.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Suggest reading the letter of James three times before next Sunday. If done in one sitting, each reading will take no longer than 20 minutes each.
- II. Memorize James 2:26 - Central verse of James epistle.
- III. Recommended books for those who may wish to read further on James are:

1. Living that Counts, Krutza & Dicicco, Baker Book House Publishers, pp. 5-9.
2. James - A Practical Faith, Downey, Moody Press, pp. 15-32.



Lesson #2

Spiritual Growth In Trials

by

Jerry Edward Emra

# Session Scripture

James 1:2-4, 12

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Heb. 12:6-8

"For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Job 1:20-22

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.

Job 42:1-6, 10

Then Job answered the Lord, and said, "I know that Thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' 'Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.' 'Hear now, and I will speak; I will ask Thee, and do Thou instruct me.' 'I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees Thee; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.'"

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord increased all that Job had twofold.

**Session Focus:**

Discover that trials can actually be good for the Christian.

**Session Aim:**

**Know:** That God loves you no matter what hardship must be endured.

**Feel:** The joy and satisfaction of living on a plain above the circumstances.

**Do:** Come to the place in your spiritual life where trials can be received with quiet trust instead of helpless panic.

**Session Outline:**

- I. The Christian Attitude Toward Trials - 1:12
- II. The Purpose of Trials - 1:3-4
- III. The Result of Rightly Received Trials - 1:12
- IV. Conclusion

**Session Overview:**

I. Scripture reveals that people, good or bad, have no choice about whether or not they will endure trials. Evil people bring trials on themselves, but God promises trials - discipline (John 15:2, Heb. 12:6-8) even for the righteous.

The attitude that God's people should have related to trials is joy. This joy will not be seen in laughter but in quiet trust in

God. The trial does not cause joy, but it is the knowledge that God is in total control that causes great joy. Job's family and riches were suddenly gone but he continued to bless the name of God (Job 1:20-22). He welcomed his trials as friends instead of dreaded intruders and was rewarded in faith by God.

II. The question of why innocent people suffer trials is an honest one. Many times, it seems, the guilty one is rewarded and the righteous one is penalized. James explains that the ultimate purpose of trials for the Christian is the perfection of his heart. Jesus wants every heart to be perfect (Matt. 5:48) in relationship to God. The word perfection as used in James simply means "complete for its intended use." The trials that God gives are intended to take trust away from possessions or people and make God the center of all faith.

III. The final result of testing and trials will be the crown of life (1:12). This crown of life signifies an abundant and royal life. An abundant life here and now and a royal everlasting life with Jesus Christ in heaven.

Verse 12 starts by saying that the person who endures trials will be "Blessed" or "Happy." This is because that person's faith is placed in the One who is working His purpose in life. Job 42:1-6 is an excellent example of happiness under the pressure of trials. Job confessed that God was working out His purpose and God immediately blessed Job. The secret of Job's faith was that He would have continued to trust God with or without the material blessings.

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	5-10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion	10 minutes

### Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector - Transparency #2
- II. Extra Bibles
- III. Paper and Pencil for each person
- IV. Coffee and Tea

### Methods for Teaching the Session:

After introducing the session aims and a brief lecture, the class will break into three groups to discuss the three points of the session outline. It would especially be helpful to have a leader for each group to keep the group on the track. Assign the appropriate scriptures from the scripture page to each group.

Group I. James 1:2, Job 1:20-22, Heb. 12:6-8

Group II. James 1:3-4, Job 42:1-6

Group III. James 1:12, Job 42:10-17

### Possible discussion questions:

- I. Why is discipline so vital to the life of a Christian?  
Would self-discipline play a part in lessening trial?
- II. What is your understanding of perfection in the  
Christian life?

III. How important should rewards be to the Christian?

The groups will meet for 15 minutes and each will report for up to five minutes.

In the concluding minutes of class, pray for each other.

Focus on any current trials.

Activity for the Week:

I. Read James in one sitting, then reread 1:13-21 several times to prepare for next week.

II. Memorize 1:12 to focus on the reward of trusting God with your life.

III. Trust God with the results of a trial during this week and be prepared to share God's blessing with the class.

Lesson #3

Victory Over Temptation

by

Jerry Edward Emra

## Session Scripture

## James 1:13-18

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt any one. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

## Acts 5:1-11

But a certain man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it. And the young men arose and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well."

And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.



Ps. 139:17-18

How precious also are Thy thoughts to me, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.  
When I awake, I am still with Thee.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

I Cor. 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

#### Session Focus:

Help the learner discover that he or she can control the choice of action when temptation comes, knowing that God's love will make a way to overcome temptation.

#### Session Aims:

Know: That temptation does not come from God.

Feel: The love and blessing that is continually coming from God.

Do: Trust God for today that you may not be deceived into sin.

#### Session Outline:

- I. The origin of temptation, v. 13-14.
- II. The constant love of God, v. 17.
- III. God's will, Our Holiness, v. 18.
- IV. Conclusion & Decision

#### Session Overview:

- I. The Origin of Temptation, v. 13-14.

One of the most important facts about God is that He is Holy and requires a sinless life from His people. A striking illustration of this point is found in Acts 5:1-11. Ananias and Sapphira decided to give a certain amount of money but lied about the amount, saying

that it was all the money they had. They were immediately struck dead by God. It would be the height of inconsistency for God to tempt them and then put them to death for failing Him. James states that God does not tempt anyone. To find the originator of temptation is not hard. Jesus said in John 8:44 that Satan is the father of deception. God permits the possibility of evil but He does not wish us to yield to the temptation.

## II. The Constant Love of God, v. 17.

Now that we know temptation does not come from God, it will be helpful to study exactly what God does give to His people. Jesus calls Satan the Father of lies and in James v. 17, God is called the Father of lights. The Greek word implies that with God, there is no chance of that light changing. God is absolutely trustworthy to give only good things to His people. Not only does God give goodness and love, He also makes it possible for those who trust Him to live victoriously over temptation, I. Cor. 10:13. Now it is easy to see the contrast between God and Satan. The temptation of Satan will eventually bring death but God wants only love and victory for His own.

## III. God's Will - Our Holiness, v. 18.

After seeing the difference between good and evil and trusting God, James says that God will bring us forth as His "first fruits." The phrase "first fruits" carries with it the idea of sacrifice, setting apart, and Holiness. God's ultimate purpose is to bring us through temptation; to make us like Himself in Holiness and love.

It is in John 17:17-19 that Jesus' language is very similar to James 1:18. All people will finally choose someday between Satan's lies and God's light. Those who are doing God's will will choose God's love through a life of Holy devotion to Him.

Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion & Decision	10 minutes

Session Material:

- I. Overhead projector for transparency #3
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Coffee and Tea
- IV. Extra Bibles

Methods for Teaching the Session:

After a brief introduction of the material in the overview, divide the class into groups of four or five and have each group study the Bible material contrasting Satan's temptation and God's love.

After 5-10 minutes of study bring the class together and discuss the following questions (1) What does living your life as

a sacrifice mean to you? (2) How can temptation strengthen your relationship with the Lord?

Save the last five minutes of discussion to let two or three people share their secrets of victorious living.

During the conclusion of the session, have a time of prayer for those who would like to trust God for victory over temptation.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 1:13
- II. Study James 1:19-27 for next week.

Lesson #4

Truth in Action

by

Jerry Edward Emra

## Session Scripture

James 1:19-27

This you know, my beloved brethren. But let every one be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

If any one thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Session Focus:

Recognize that (1) true religion is more than knowing the truth and (2) true freedom is more than just license.

Session Aims:

Know: The commands of this lesson which are to be obeyed by all Christians.

Feel: The need to be a doer of God's Word.

Do: The works that will show true religion.

Session Outline:

- I. Hearing vs. Doing, v. 19-25.
- II. Freedom to do Right, v. 26-27.
- III. Conclusion

Session Overview:

- I. Hearing vs. Doing.

Being able to hear others without interrupting or thinking of a reply is a wonderful attribute. The context of this session though centers on hearing the "Word of God," not just a neighbor or family member. Like communication with another person, hearing God's voice can also be difficult when too much talking, anger, filthiness or wickedness are dominating, (v. 19-21).



Even the art of listening is not enough according to James. He says that after hearing, doing must follow or the word of instruction will be forgotten (v. 22-24). The thought is that a habit of doing what God says must be formed. In obeying we are constantly being changed as Paul declares in II Cor. 3:18, "being transformed in the same image . . . as from the Lord."

## II. Freedom to Do Right.

Next to the question "What is truth?", "What is freedom?" must be answered by every person. My understanding of scripture would indicate that freedom could be defined as having the ability to do right. Many people define freedom as the ability to do anything they wish. The last definition for me would be license, not freedom. Here lies the issue of Christian conduct.

God has said through James that if a person thinks he is a Christian but cannot control his conduct, he is being deceived. The only religion that can give true freedom is the one that gives the ability to do the right thing.

To be unstained by the word (true freedom), indicates that submission to God's ways is the only way.

## Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion & Decision	10 minutes

**Materials Needed:**

- I. Overhead Projector for Transparency #4
- II. Paper and Pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Coffee and Tea

**Methods for Teaching the Session:**

Introduce only the topics of discussion for the lesson and then divide the class into two groups. Let them study the text, one group studying the contrast between hearing and doing. The other group will study the question of true religion and freedom.

After 10-15 minutes of study bring the groups together and open the discussion with such questions as:

1. What is the difference in the hearer and the doer?
2. What is your definition of freedom?

Be sure to allow time for prayer during the conclusion. Many decisions could be made if the people understand the relationship of actions to freedom.

**Activity for the Week:**

- I. Study Chapter 2 of James.
- II. Memorize James 1:27.
- III. Challenge each class member to visit an orphan or widow in the community this week.

Lesson #5

Works: Right & Wrong

by

Jerry Edward Emra

## Session Scripture

James 2:1-4

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

James 2:8

If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

James 2:14-26

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

But you are willing to recognize you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

#### Session Focus:

Discover that the motive behind doing a work will make it right or wrong in the eyes of God.

#### Session Aims:

Know: The consequences of favoritism

Feel: Love and humility toward all people

Do: The works that glorify God - not self

#### Session Outline:

- I. The Problem - Favoritism, 2:1-4
- II. God's Law, 2:8
- III. Faith Plus Works, 2:14-26
- IV. Conclusion & Decision

#### Session Overview:

##### I. The Problem - Favoritism.

Favoritism in church is trying to combine snobbery and faith. Usually when rich people are being favored in church, it is because something material can be gained by it. Even if something good for the church could be gained, James says that (v. 9) it would be sin. Even worse, we become judges when favoring a class of people because God made both the rich and poor. In effect we are saying that one group is better and God must have made a mistake with the

other. A good thing obtained would then be wrong because of motive.

## II. God's Law, 2:8.

It is fine and good to treat rich people well. The breaking of the law comes when we must neglect the other group of people to do it.

It would be good to ask ourselves some questions. Is the new-comer welcome (rich or poor) in my church? Do I demonstrate that I care, no matter what I may or may not gain by it? Do all classes of people like to be around me?

In summary, the standard for Christian living is the same for all. Treat all people as well as you would treat yourself, regardless of the consequences.

## III. Faith Plus Works, 2:14-26.

For James, the crucial issue is not faith or works. The crucial issue is faith plus works. The faith that does not result in works is not a true faith.

James uses many illustrations to prove the point that works are not a higher priority than faith, but that no faith exists without works. (1) The brother who needs food and clothing, and (2) Hebrew events including Abraham and Rahab are convincing support.

James 2:26 is the central verse and argument. Faith is not achieved by works. Works are a result of faith.

### Session Plan

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study & Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion & Decision	10 minutes

### Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead Projector for Transparency #5
- II. Paper & pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Coffee & Tea

### Method for Teaching the Session:

Without introduction, divide into two groups. One group should research the subject of favoritism and motive in James 2:1-13. Group two should research the relationship of faith and works in James 2:14-26. Allow 15 minutes for research.

Start the group discussion with questions like:

1. Describe the results of favoritism?
2. How can faith be shown in everyday situations?
3. Do you see contradiction or agreement between James and Paul on the issue of faith and works?

In conclusion ask for prayer requests concerning needs - physical, financial or otherwise so that the class members will be challenged with the possibility of doing a good work. Pray about these needs in class.



Activity for the Week:

- I. Read James 3:1-12 for next week.
- II. Memorize James 2:8.
- III. Mentally check your own motives for all good works this week.

Lesson #6

The Tongue: A Blessing or a Curse

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 3:1-12

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricture judgment.

For we all stumble in many ways. If any one does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race.

But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

Does a fountain send out from the same opening both fresh and bitter water?

Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Neither can salt water produce fresh.

#### Session Focus:

Help the learner recognize that the tongue can be either the greatest blessing or the most corrupt part of the body.

#### Session Aims:

Know: The effects of the tongue when used improperly.

Feel: The need to glorify God in all conversation.

Do: Determine by God's grace that He will be allowed to control all speech.

#### Session Outline:

- |                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| I. The Blessing of the Tongue.  | James 3:1-4       |
| II. The Curse of the Tongue.    | James 3:5-7, 9-12 |
| III. The Solution to the Curse. | James 3:8         |
| IV. Conclusion and Decision.    |                   |

#### Session Overview:

- I. The Blessing of the Tongue. James 3:1-4.

The Tongue is one of the greatest gifts of God. With the tongue we can say "I love you" to a loved one. With the tongue we can pray and thank God for Jesus. Although the chapter starts out as directed to teachers, (teachers should learn how to control the tongue before becoming teachers - they are examples) the principle is the same. All people must learn to surrender the tongue to God's control or ruin will follow.

## II. The Curse of the Tongue. James 3:5-7, 9-12.

Because the tongue is such a great gift from God, it can do great harm when used improperly. The tongue is so powerful that James illustrates it by the rudder of a ship or a match that starts a forest fire. The danger of this power is that whatever is in the heart will eventually come out via the tongue (Matt. 12:33-37). James then continues to explain that the problem of the tongue is a hopeless one. All the animals of the world can be tamed, but the small, little tongue cannot be controled. Because the problem is hopeless, there is hope.

## III. The Solution to the Curse. James 3:8.

Precisely because there was no hope in controlling sin in our lives, "What did we do"? We took the problem to the Lord. The Lord is the solution to every problem.

If even one man had been able to solve the tongue problem by himself, Jesus wouldn't be needed. The Lord, however, did solve the problem for John and James the disciples who were called Boanerges - the Sons of Thunder. Each person can be a person of love and control if Jesus Christ is in control.

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship:	5-10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion:	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week:	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion:	10 minutes

Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector - Transparency #6
- II. Extra Bibles
- III. Paper & Pencil for each person
- IV. Coffee & tea

Methods for Teaching the Session:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #6.

Do not have small groups but pass out paper and pencils so that each one can write down ways of controlling the tongue. After five minutes of writing, allow a time for discussion. It is a good way to learn from other class members.

Share with the group these two scriptures as ways of controlling the tongue (Ps. 141:3-4, Matt. 12:36).

During the conclusion and decision time, have small group (3-4 people) prayers. Prayer for each other by name that each person may speak in love and gentleness using the tongue for its intended use.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 3:8.
- II. Read James 3:13-18 several times.
- III. Make a conscious effort to use your tongue for good.

Each time you say a praise worthy word to God's glory, silently thank Him for controlling your tongue.

Lesson #7

Wisdom: Earthly or Heavenly

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 3:13-18:

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.

This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Proverbs 1:7:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.



Session Focus:

Discover that knowledge and true wisdom may be the same or quite different.

Session Aims:

Know: Understand that true wisdom will result in good works.

Feel: The peace of heart which will bring true wisdom in mind and heart.

Do: Recognize and stop those actions which cause jealousy and selfish ambition.

Session Outline:

- I. Earthly Wisdom, v. 14-16.
- II. Heavenly Wisdom, v. 13, 17, 18.
- III. Conclusion & Decision.

Session Overview:

- I. Earthly Wisdom, v. 14-16.

There are many highly intellectual people in the world. Some of these are scientists, doctors, politicians, and philosophers who are struggling with the problems of the world. The reason that conditions worsen is because many of these people are working to glorify self. James calls this kind of wisdom earthly because it causes jealousy and selfish ambition.

Even within the church today some are jealous when they do not get enough credit for their works. These people may have a good deal of head knowledge about the Lord but even this knowledge is natural and demonic if not submitted to God.

Lets look at the right kind of wisdom and examine what it produces.

## II. Heavenly Wisdom, v. 13, 17-18.

Now that we know how head knowledge can be different than true wisdom, how would intellect be the same as wisdom? Proverbs 1:7 tells us that true wisdom only begins when fear (reverance) of the Lord starts. Therefore, it is not what, but who is known that makes a person wise. Of course this head knowledge must be transferred to the heart for real to begin, but it is the knowledge of the Lord that starts the process toward faith.

For James, it is not enough that a person obtain wisdom and understanding. A person who is wise will use that wisdom in doing good deeds to produce peace.

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	5-10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion	10 minutes

Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector - Transparency #7
- II. Extra Bibles
- III. Paper & Pencil for each person
- IV. Coffee & tea

Methods for Teaching the Session:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #7.

Divide the class into small groups and list what would be considered the actions of both earthly and heavenly wisdom. Compare the two lists discerning why one wise deed may be earthly and another may be heavenly.

After 5-10 minutes, bring the class together and discuss the answers from the small groups. Place the main emphasis of discussion on the positive side helping each person to see how wisdom can be used to help others.

During conclusion and prayer time, have silent prayer encouraging each person to make a decision concerning the use of their God given wisdom.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 3:13.
- II. Read James 4:1-17.

Lesson #8

The Trap to Christian Growth

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 4:1-6

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you?  
Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are  
envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not  
have because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong  
motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the  
world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a  
friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose:  
"He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in  
us"?

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is  
opposed to the Proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Session Focus:

Recognize the causes of discontent for the Christian and understand the principle for living near to God.

Session Aims:

Know: How a harmonious relationship with God can be ruined.

Feel: The necessity to obtain the promised grace of God.

Do: Apply the solution given by James so that division between God and Man will not occur.

Session Outline:

- I. Traps to Christian Growth
  - A. Pleasures - v. 1
  - B. Improper Prayer - v. 2-3
  - C. Compromise - v. 4
- II. The Way to Escape - v. 5-6
- III. Conclusion and Decision

Session Overview:

- I. Traps to Christian Growth
  - A. Pleasures - v. 1

Although James is speaking to believers, their pleasures are still a problem. Even after salvation, the tendency to put self-pleasure ahead of the needs and well being of others can be a great temptation. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? The war

being waged is between the spiritual self that has been saved and the carnal self that has not yet surrendered to the purifying of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1). Any person who has not surrendered all to God is capable of anything including even lust and murder (James 4:2).

#### B. Improper Prayer, v. 2-3.

After salvation, correct praying will bring help from God in dealing with the inner struggles. Self-centered prayers offered only to get things from God are wrongly motivated and will not be answered.

The other part of this problem is total lack of prayer. If the Christian thinks of himself to the point that God is totally neglected, only spiritual disaster can hope to follow. The one who never asks cannot hope to receive anything.

#### C. Compromise, v. 4.

The witness of many who have fallen away from God is that the things of the world started to look good to them again. When self-pleasures and improper prayer life begin to crowd into the heart, it is not long before compromise (friendship with the world) starts. The only way James can describe friendship with the world is adultery because the Christian is a part of the bride of Christ. There can be no place for compromise in the Christian life. Luke 9:62 could be paraphrased - "Any Christian who begins to compromise with the world is not fit to be called a Christian."

#### II. The Way to Escape, v. 5-6.

The traps to Christian growth loom so big at time, but

James escape route is to allow the Spirit of God to dwell in us. If God's Spirit is ever present, there is not a chance for pleasures, neglect of prayer or compromise to have a hold on the heart. The proud person believes that there is no problem to handle. The humble person knows the power and safety that the Father will give to His children.

#### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion and Decision	10 minutes

#### Session Material:

- I. Overhead projector for transparency #8
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Coffee and Tea
- IV. Extra Bibles

#### Methods for Teaching the Session:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #8.

After a brief introduction to the subject, break into small groups. Have half the groups study the causes or traps to Christians. Have the rest study the solution or escape. Notice that the traps concentrate on self. The escape concentrates on God.



After 10-15 minutes, come together for discussion. Possible discussion questions are:

1. How are you handling the traps to Christian growth.
2. What would be a perfect prayer in one sentence to show humility? Suggest:
  - A. Thy will be done Lord.
  - B. God, give me whatever would make me more like Jesus.
3. Will God give anything to us if we ask it for His glory?

During the conclusion and decision time ask the class to apply the lesson to themselves. Ask for many to pray sentence prayers.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 4:6b
- II. Read James 4:7-12

Lesson #9

Don't Fall For the Trap

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 4:7-12

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.

Session Focus:

Discover that God gives the formula to resist sin before the sin happens.

Session Aims:

Know: The formula for Holy living.

Feel: God's presence and help as sin is resisted.

Do: Apply the formula for specific and personal needs.

Session Outline:

- I. Union with God, v. 7-10
- II. Unity with Man, v. 11-12
- III. Conclusion and Decision

Session Overview:

- I. Union with God, v. 7-10.

As much as God loves and as ready as He is to come to our aid, He is restricted until we act. James uses words that show graphically the human work involved in living for God. Such words as submit, resist, draw near, cleanse, purify, mourn, and humble are used to picture a person who is serious about minding God.

Especially significant is the reference to double-minded (refer to 1:8) showing that God must be uppermost in the hearts and minds of His people. Anything less than full submission to Him will not be accepted but the humble person will be exalted in

the eyes of God. The formula for Holy living is found in verse 7 - Submit therefore to God. Remember that submission does not mean being whipped or degraded by God. Submission carries with it the picture of protection by God of His children.

## II. Unity with Man, v. 11-12.

Reread James 3:1-12 and apply it to James 4:11. Is it any wonder that unity with other people must be tied to speech. Unity with Man is vital because speaking against (evil of) another brother in Christ will bring trouble with God (v.11). The evil is not the speaking, but the fact that I am judging and not obeying God's law. Remember that judgement of normal human behavior is not evil. It is looking into the heart of men that is condemned (Matt. 7:1).

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion and Decision	10 minutes

### Session Materials:

- I. Overhead projector for Transparency #9
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Blackboard
- V. Coffee and Tea

Session Method:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #9.

After a brief introduction of the lesson, write on the blackboard the words submission, resist, judge. Let people describe these with only one word. Write these down and discuss them until the class arrives at the biblical meaning of each.

Possible discussion questions are:

1. What does submission mean to you?
2. How do you resist the devil?
3. When is judging right? When wrong?
4. How would you live "the Law"? Matt. 7:12.

Break into small groups for the conclusion time. Pray for God's grace to live in unity with God and Man.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 4:7
- II. Read James 4:13-17

Lesson #10

What Does the Future Hold

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year and engage in business and make a profit."

Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Luke 12:19,21

And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."

"So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:47

"And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes,. . .



Session Focus:

Realize that today is all God has promised and tomorrow may come only if He wills it.

Session Aims:

Know: That God's will would be more profitable than personal planning.

Feel: The excitement of trusting God with the future.

Do: Only the things that are planned through God's will and prayer.

Session Outline:

- I. Freedom to Choose, 4:13-15
  - A. Life's Work
  - B. Life's Length
- II. Freedom Turned to Sin, 4:16-17
  - A. Boasting
  - B. Sin of Omission
- III. Conclusion and Decision

Session Overview:

- I. Freedom to Choose, 4:13-15
  - A. Life's Work.

The positions that the Jews found themselves in after the dispersion were traders and merchants. James is not scolding

them for making a living or planning ahead. The warning is given to them and can be applied to us as well to include God in all work planning. The story told by Jesus in Luke 12:16-21 is illustrative of a man who had not included God in his plans. Even this rich person who had everything was very poor in the things that mattered most.

#### B. Life's Length.

The importance of including God in all of life's plans is precisely at the point of life's length. God knows the number of days he has scheduled for each person. A heart attack or respiratory arrest may be in the Divine plan for tomorrow. The person without God who is alive tomorrow must be on borrowed time. God's day of salvation is today (II Cor. 6:2) and He promises no more. How many unbelievers have sat comfortably in their homes only to hear the voice of the Lord? "You fool! This night your soul is required of you . . ." (Luke 12:20).

### II. Freedom Turned to Sin, James 4:16-17.

#### A. Boasting

The preceding section spoke of excluding God. The question could be asked, "How long before neglect turns to outward defiance"? James has been careful to warn of thoughtlessness and neglect up to this point. Now the tone has changed to warn the people of their outright sin.

The application is obvious for us today. How long can we neglect Bible reading and prayer without turning away from God?

### B. Sin of Omission.

Now that the Jews have been warned, James explains that to do nothing about it would be sin.

Jesus spoke of the servant who had received orders and did not obey (Luke 12:41-47). He knew right and did wrong.

Have you parents ever been frustrated by your children who did wrong right after learning the right way. You can understand then how our Lord must feel when we disobey Him.

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion and Decision	10 minutes

### Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector for Transparency #10
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Coffee and Tea

### Session Method:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #10.

Give each class member paper and pencil to answer the following questions. These will not be handed in so answer them truthfully.

Allow 10 minutes.

- 1) Do you include God in all major plans? (School, work, home, etc.)
- 2) List one major plan that will take place in the next year?
- 3) How is God included?

As leader, share your own with the class and ask them to give suggestions on how you may do better in including God. Ask for more volunteers to share. The ideas given may help the class in unexpected ways.

During the conclusion ask for prayer requests and pray that God would be included in every decision made by those in the class.

#### Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 4:17
- II. Read James 5:1-6

Lesson #11

Love People-Not Riches

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture:

James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

### Session Focus:

Help the learner to see the intended contrast between the value of money and people.

### Session Aims:

- Know: The importance placed on people by God.
- Feel: The feelings of other people who are less fortunate financially.
- Do: Examine personal habits to evaluate priorities when dealing with people.

### Session Outline:

- I. Misuse of Riches, James 5:1-3.
- II. Misuse of People, James 5:4-6
- III. Conclusion and Decision

### Session Overview:

- I. Misuse of Riches, 5:1-3.

James warning to the rich, "Weep and howl for your miseries which are coming . . ." is not an indictment against being rich. The problem is the misuse of money.

Jesus' parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) is a good example of the proper Christian attitude toward money. The point is not how much you have but what you do with what you have.

James indicates that these people were using their money for

selfish hoarding and clothing (v.2). Their trust was placed in riches, but their riches would eventually consume them.

## II. Misuse of People, 5:4-6.

James explains a second part of the problem with misused riches. The rich people to which James is writing got wealthy by misusing people. The importance of this is that God cares how we make our money as much as how we spend it. If cheating in work or in the law courts takes priority over a human life, judgment is sure.

A true Christian would never use another for profit or become involved in a less than honest job. Refer to Matt. 7:12 and see if the law applies.

Remember that riches are not evil in themselves. They only become so when placed before God in importance.

### Session Plan:

I. Fellowship	10 minutes
II. Bible Study and Discussion	35 minutes
III. Activity for the Week	5 minutes
IV. Conclusion and Decision	10 minutes

### Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector for Transparency #11
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Blackboard
- V. Coffee and Tea



Session Method:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #11.

After introducing the scripture, breaking into small groups, have each person list as many ways as possible to profit unfairly. Possible ways could be accepting too much change at the store or selling your used car and not telling the buyer it had a worn out engine. Discuss these in the small groups. Tell what could be done to right a wrong. This may include taking money back to the store, etc. Allow time for some personal testimony as to how God has changed your attitude toward money and people.

In the conclusion pray that God would change any priority not glorifying to Him.

Activity for the Week:

I. Read James 5:7-20.

Lesson #12

Patience, Pray and Witness

by

Jerry Edward Emra

Session Scripture

James 5:7-20

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it until it gets the early and late rains.

You too be patient; strengthen your hearts for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door.

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and prayer for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back,

let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.

Session Focus:

Recognize that the Christian has many duties to fulfill even while waiting for the second coming of Christ.

Session Aims:

Know: The style of Christian living that will benefit self and others.

Feel: A sense of loss when any amount of time is used improperly.

Do: Make a personal inventory of time to see how much time is spent each week for God.

Session Outline:

- I. While Waiting for Jesus, James 5:7-20
  - A. Patience, v. 7-11
  - B. Prayer, v. 13-18
  - C. Witness, v. 19-20
- II. Conclusion and Decision

Session Overview:

- I. While Waiting for Jesus, James 5:7-20
  - A. Patience, v. 7-11.

For many people, waiting is the hardest work possible.

The Lord seems to be lagging behind. Many people even set their own date for His return.

James' first exhortation is patience. He cites the endurance of Job and the inference is that we should be like him. Remember that God's ways are different than our ways (Isaiah 55:8). We need to let God have His way without complaint. We will see that God is "full of compassion and merciful" as we trust.

B. Prayer, v. 13-18.

James gives examples of helping others in prayer. If we are in the last days before our Lord returns, people will need prayer even more than in James' day. The healing of sickness and the forgiveness of sins will always be probably the most important prayer requests of any age. God's promise in Jeremiah 33:3 is that he will answer in . . . "great and mighty ways. . ." James says to be sure and pray because these important requests will be answered (v. 15-16). Remember James 4:2-3? Prayer should be specifically like Elijah's was in I Kings 17. Remember that prayer can accomplish much. The nature of prayer is first powerful. Second, the power of God is directed in an effective way.

C. Witness, v. 19-20.

Our Lord never directed anyone to just sit and wait for Him. Action is the attribute seen in most Christian people.

James' last exhortation is good and proper. Be on the look out for those wandering from the truth. Only God will know how many sins can be averted by bringing one person back to Him.

Patient business in prayer and witness will eventually lead yourself and many others to their eternal home in heaven.

Session Plan:

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| I. Fellowship                  | 10 minutes |
| II. Bible Study and Discussion | 35 minutes |
| III. Activity for the Week     | 5 minutes  |
| IV. Conclusion and Decision    | 10 minutes |

Materials Needed:

- I. Overhead projector for Transparency #12
- II. Paper and pencils for group discussion
- III. Extra Bibles
- IV. Coffee and Tea

Session Method:

Introduce the lesson with transparency #12.

Break into small groups after the introduction of the text.

Let one group discuss patience, one prayer and one witnessing. All three groups should discuss major areas of interest through the entire book of James. Allow 10 minutes. Bring the class together as a whole and have an open discussion on any topic previously studied. Save time to explain the time study during the conclusion. Challenge each class member to keep track of every waking hour in 15 minute periods for the next seven days. James is concerned with Christian works and this will be an excellent way to see exactly how much time is spent for God.

Close the class with a prayer of praise for all God has taught through His Word in the last twelve weeks.

Activity for the Week:

- I. Memorize James 5:11, 16
- II. Do personal time study.



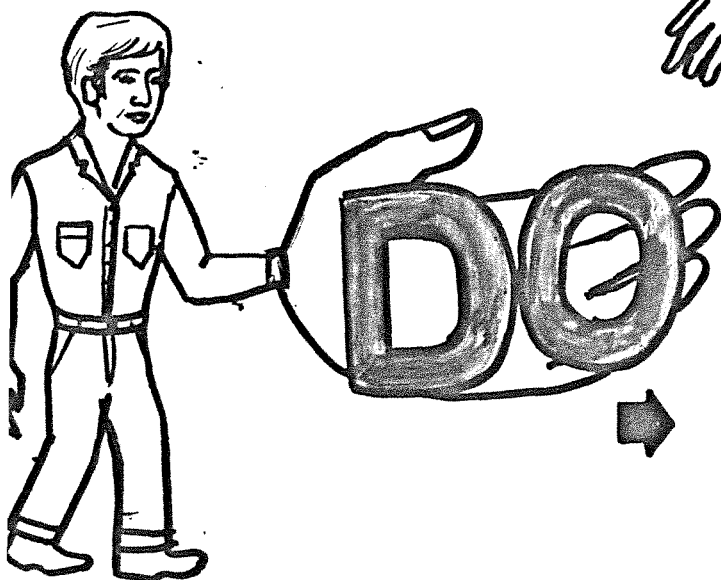
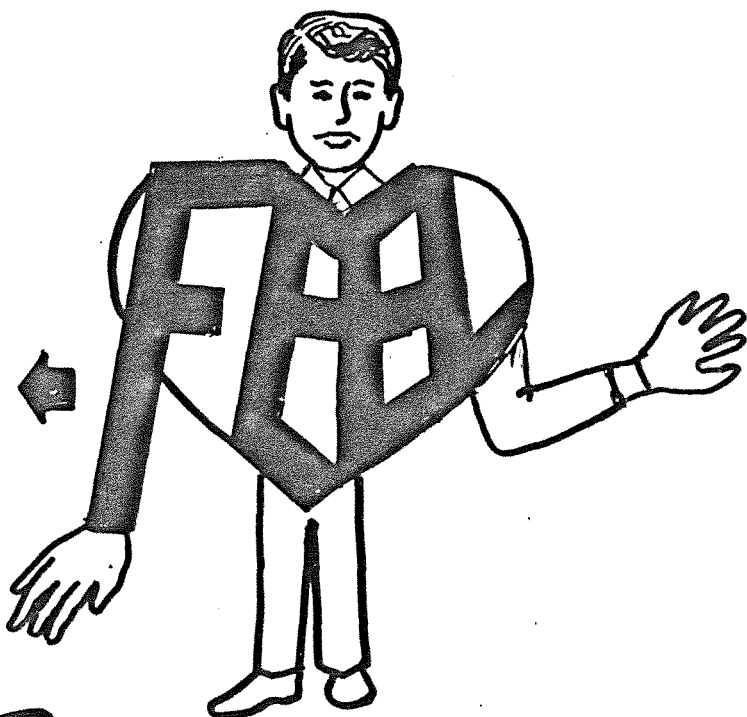
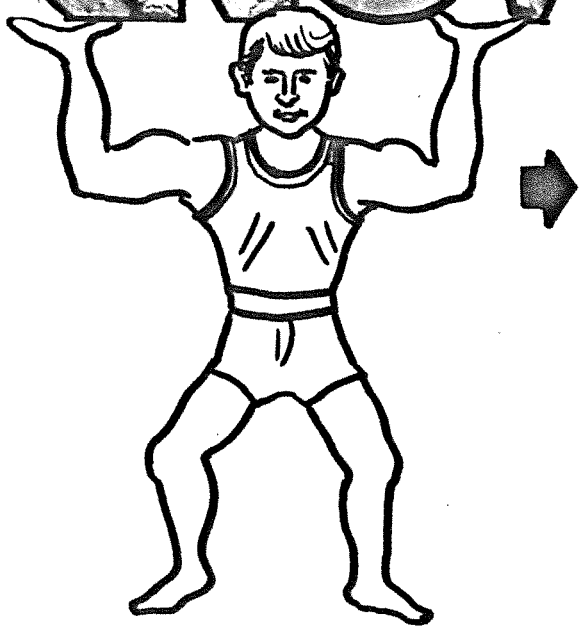
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## APPENDIX

KNOW JAMES

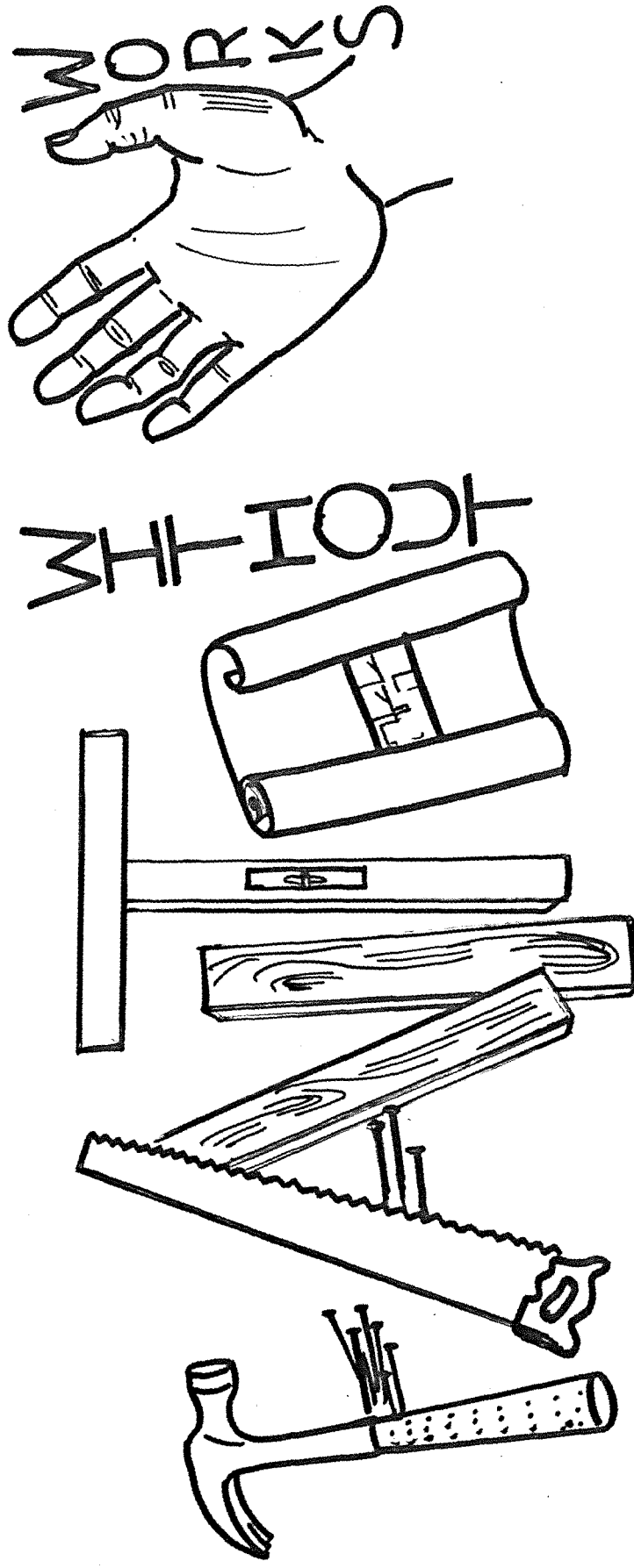


.ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
.THE PURPOSE  
OF THE LETTER

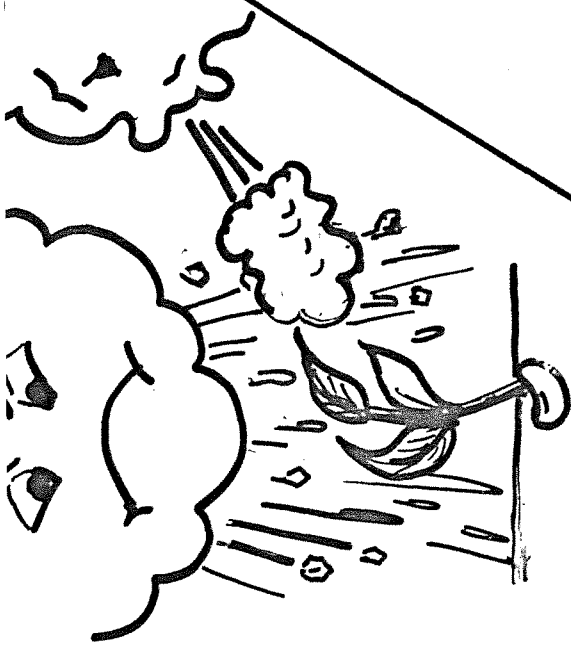
THE EMOTIONS  
OF JAMES IN HIS  
RELATIONSHIP  
TO JESUS

MEMORIZE  
THE CENTRAL  
VERSE

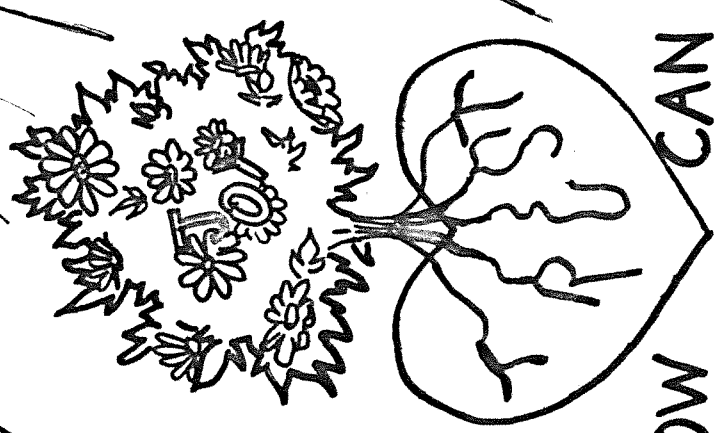
JAMES 2:26  
FOR JUST AS THE BODY  
WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD  
SO ALSO



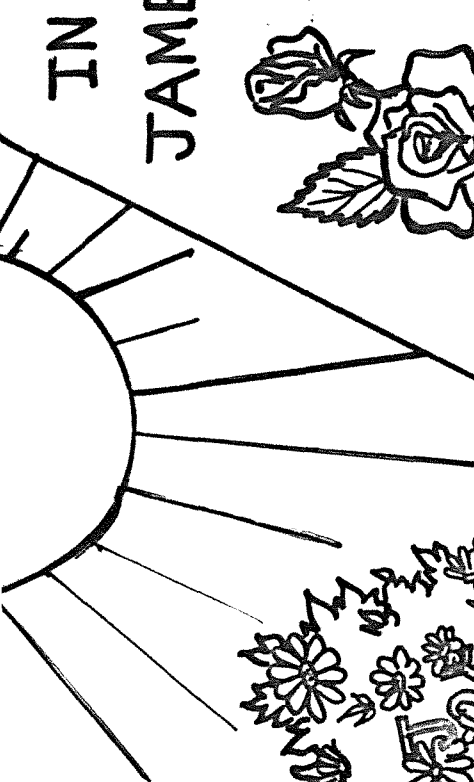
IS DEAD



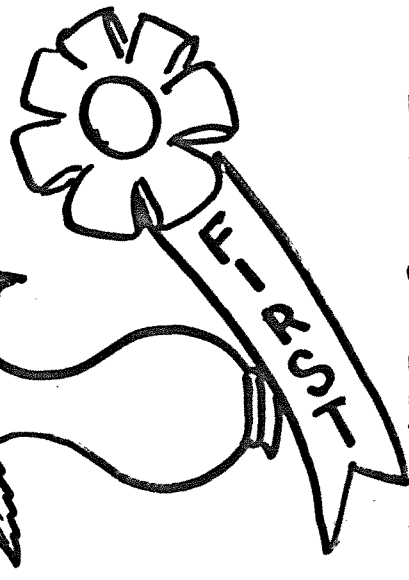
WHAT  
DIFFICULTIES  
DO WE FACE?



HOW  
CAN  
DIFFICULTIES  
HELP GROWTH?



IN  
JAMES 1:12



WHAT IS THE  
REWARD OF  
THE CHRISTIAN?

GOD LOVES YOU-  
AS ENDURING  
HARDSHIPS

THE JOY OF LIVING  
ABOVE THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES

ACCEPT TRIALS  
WITH  
QUIET TRUST...



JAMES

1:14 LB

TEMPTATION

IS . . . . .

THE PULL  
OF MAN'S  
OWN EVIL  
THOUGHTS  
AND WISHES



1:15  
THESE  
EVIL  
THOUGHTS  
LEAD TO . . . . .

EVIL ACTIONS

TEMPTATION  
COMES FROM SATAN  
NOT GOD

THE LOVE  
THAT COMES  
FROM GOD

LIST AREAS  
SATAN PULLS.  
COMMIT TO GOD.



COMMANDS  
WHICH ARE  
TO BE OBEYED

THE NEED  
TO BE DOERS  
OF THE WORD

WORKS  
THAT SHOW  
YOUR FAITH



INFLUENTIAL  
HELP US?  
ATTRACTIVE?  
OLD?

RICH? POOR?  
NEED HELP?  
UNDESIRABLE?  
FAT?

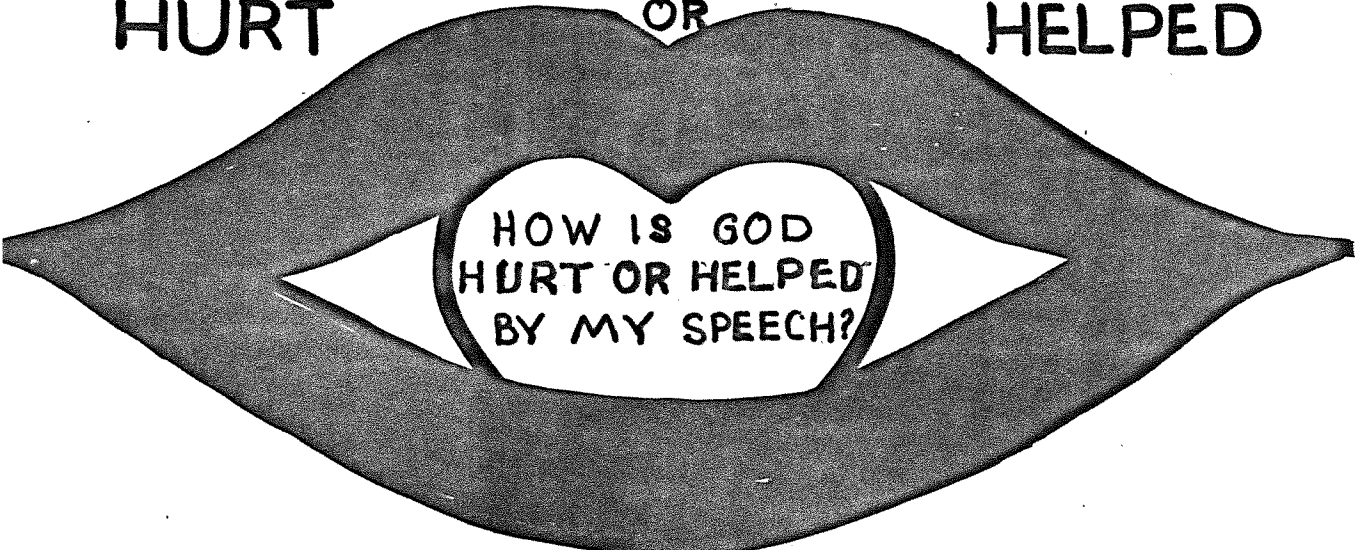
HOW DO YOU VIEW THOSE YOU MEET?

CONSEQUENCES  
OF  
FAVORITISM

LOVE AND  
HUMILITY FOR  
ALL PEOPLE

WORKS TO  
GLORIFY GOD  
NOT SELF

# HOW ARE PEOPLE HURT OR HELPED



HOW IS GOD  
HURT OR HELPED  
BY MY SPEECH?

JAMES 4:1, 11, 16

PROVERBS 13:3

PROVERBS 12:18

PROVERBS 15:1, 23, 28

PROVERBS 26:20

PROVERBS 23:13

PSALMS 119:11

EXODUS 20:7, 16

I PETER 3:10, 15

TITUS 2:7

ROMANS 10:10

ECCL. 3:7, 5:11

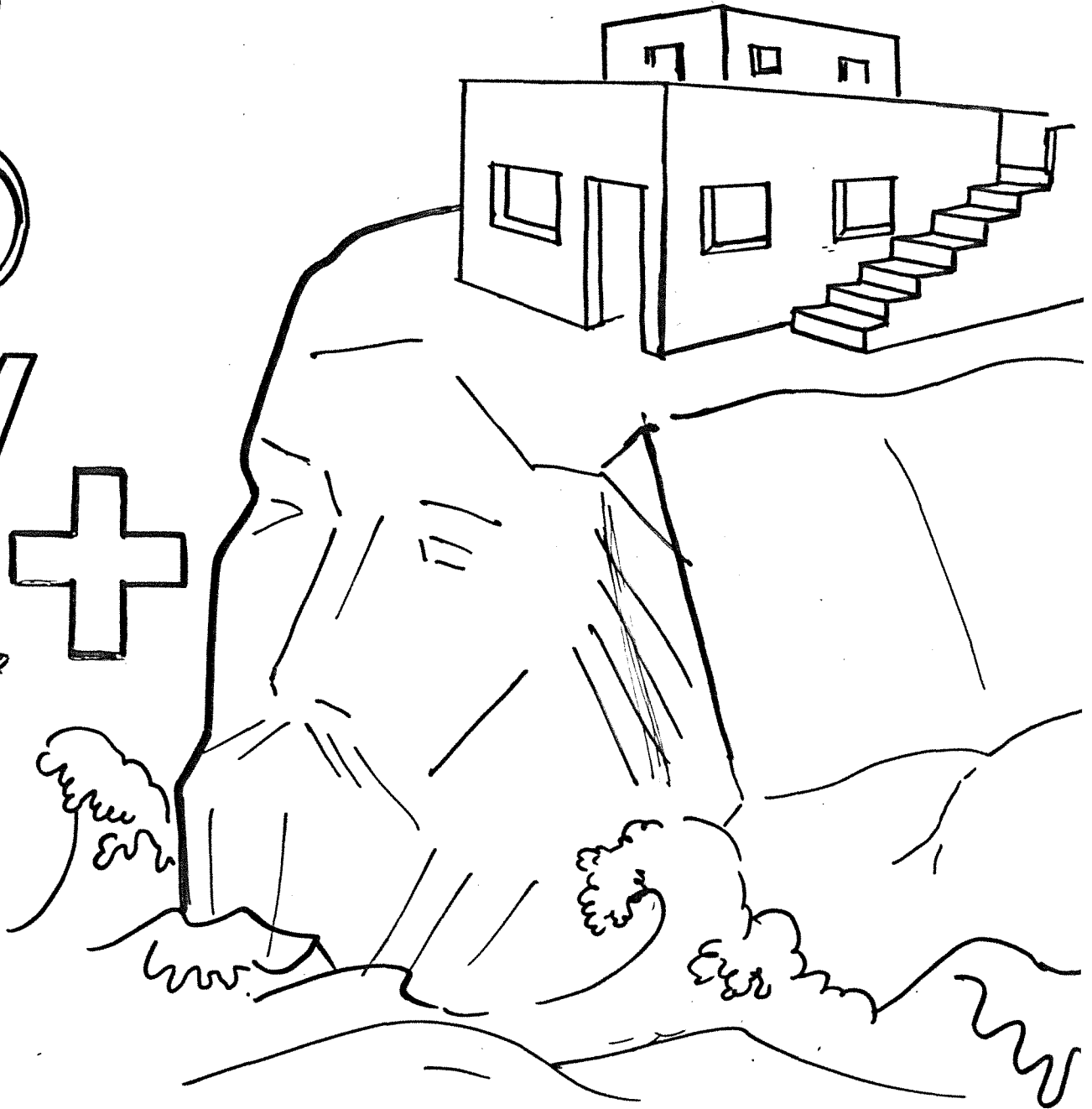
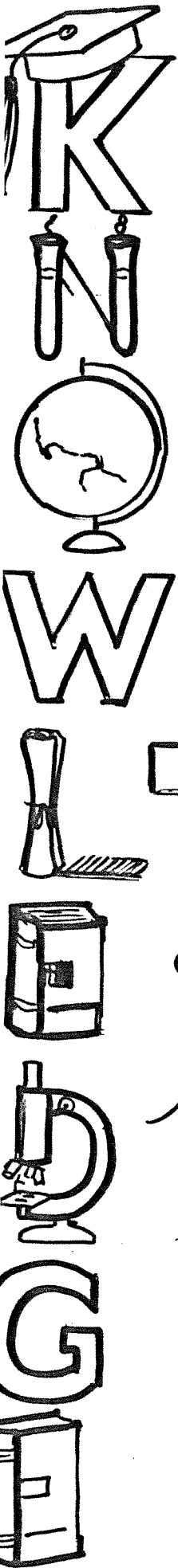
THE EFFECTS OF  
AN UNCONTROLLED  
TONGUE

THE NEED  
TO GLORIFY GOD  
IN MY SPEECH

ALLOW GOD  
TO CONTROL  
MY SPEECH



TRUE WISDOM IS:



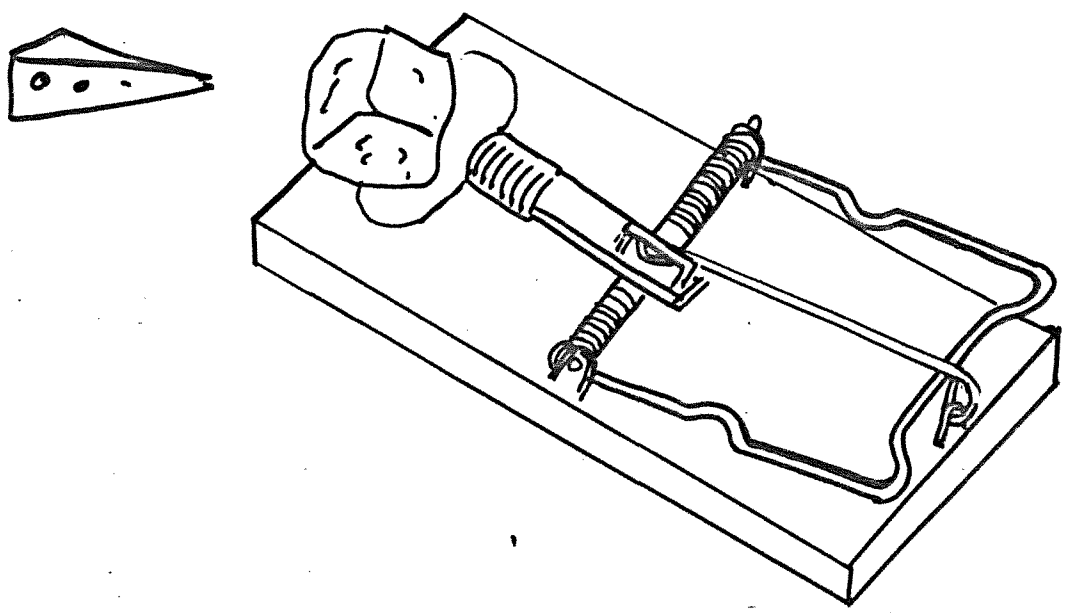
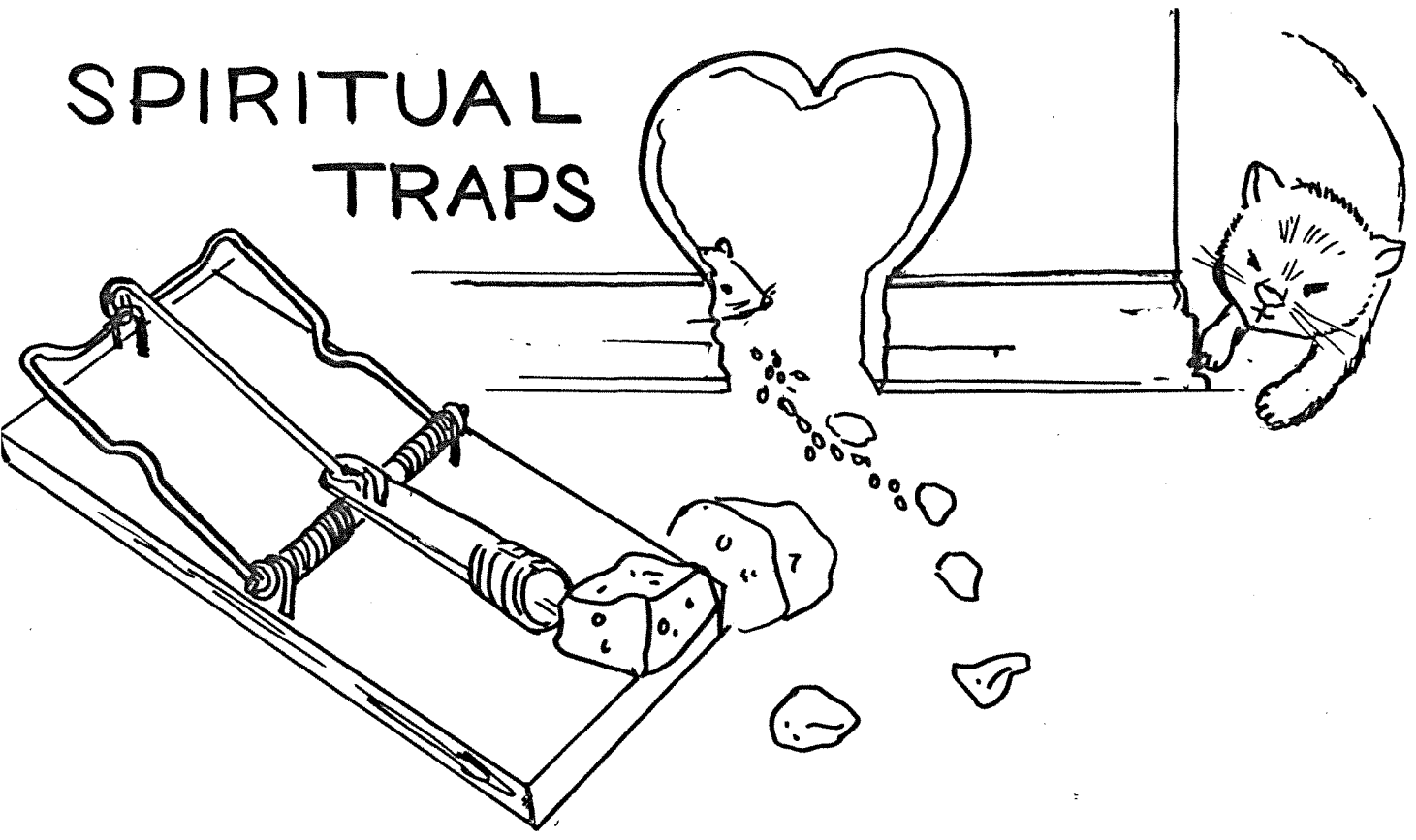
PROVERBS 9:10,11 LB

WISDOM  
WILL RESULT  
IN GOOD WORKS

THE PEACE WHICH  
ACCOMPANIES  
TRUE WISDOM

RECOGNIZE  
WHAT CAUSES  
JEALOUSY AND  
SELFISHNESS

# SPIRITUAL TRAPS

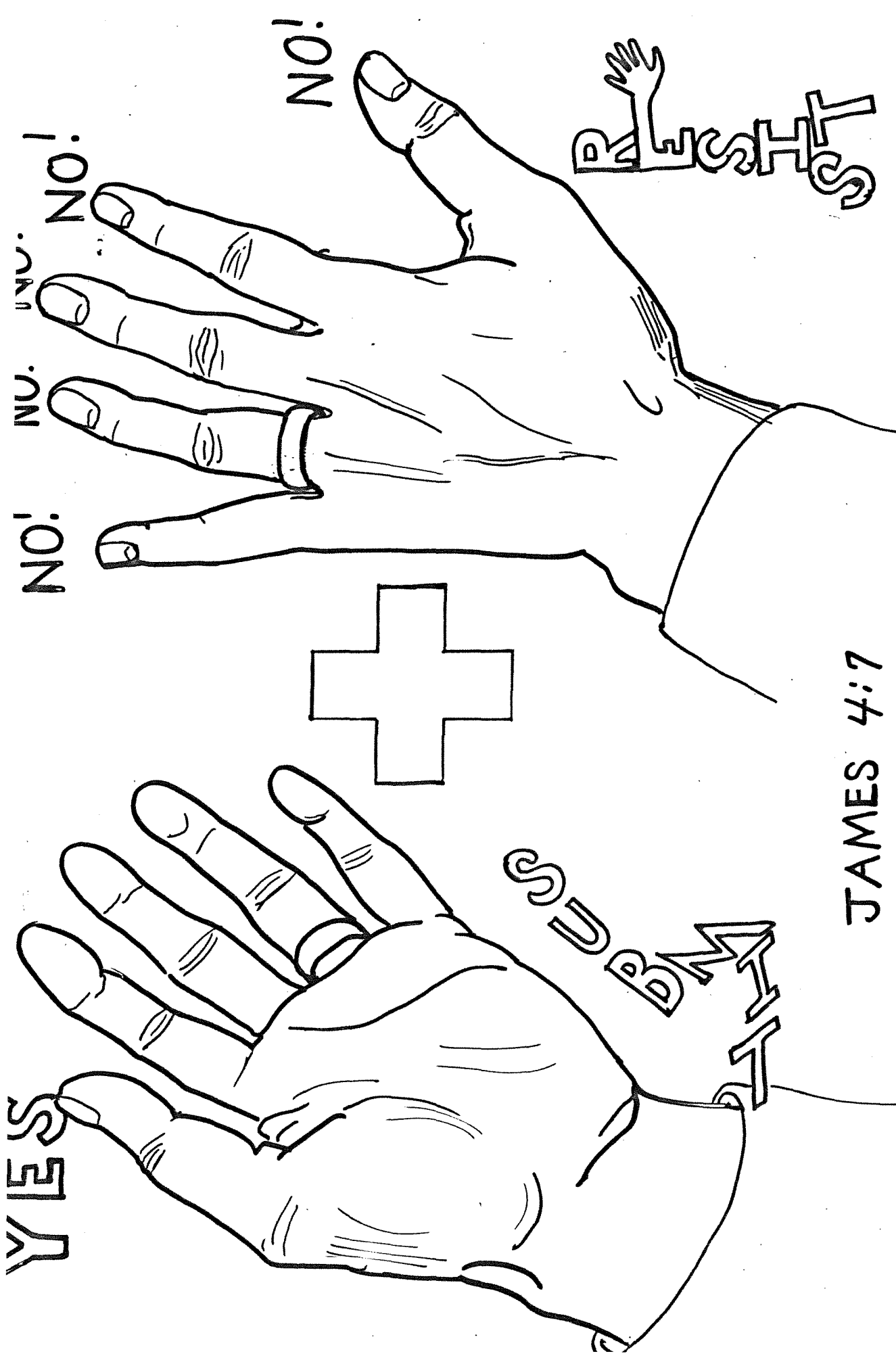


HOW A  
RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD  
IS RUINED

THE NEED  
OF GOD'S  
GRACE

PLAN  
A SAFE ROUTE  
THRU YOUR WEEK'S  
SCHEDULE

YES

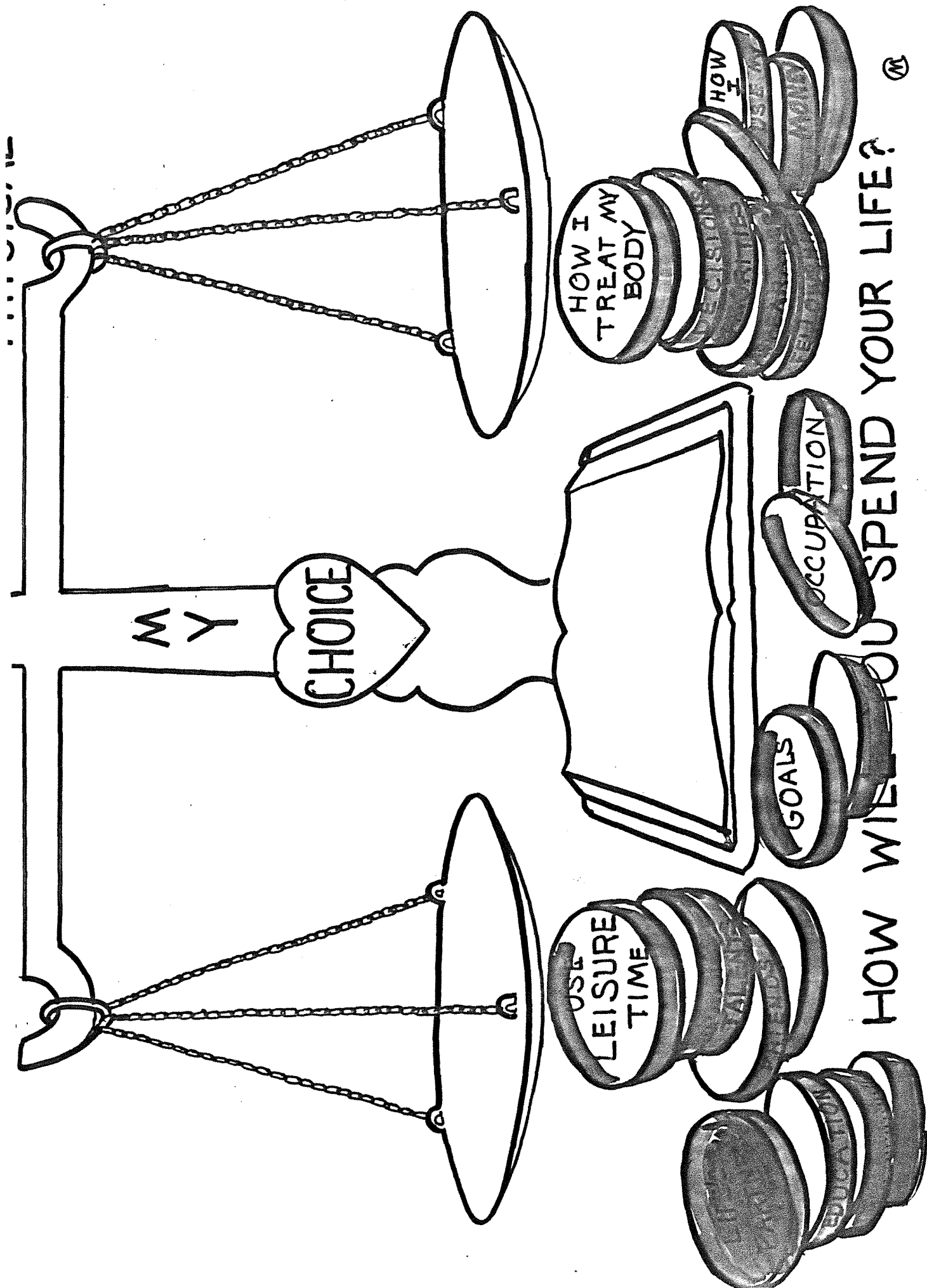


JAMES 4:7

THE FORMULA  
FOR  
HOLY LIVING

GOD'S PRESENCE  
AS SIN  
IS RESISTED

APPLY FORMULA  
TO SITUATIONS  
THIS WEEK.



THAT GOD'S WILL  
IS BETTER  
THAN MY PLANS

THE EXCITEMENT  
OF TRUSTING GOD  
WITH MY FUTURE

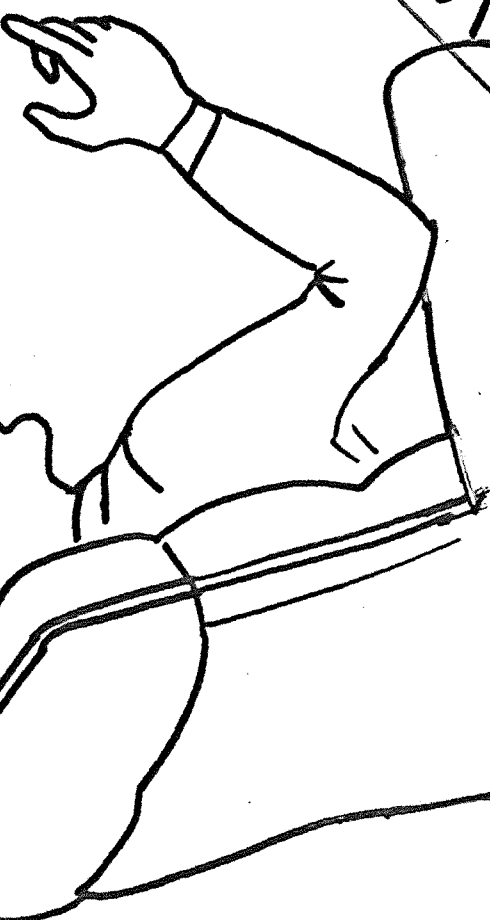
CHECK ALL PLANS  
AGAINST  
GOD'S PLAN



THING  
OF GOD

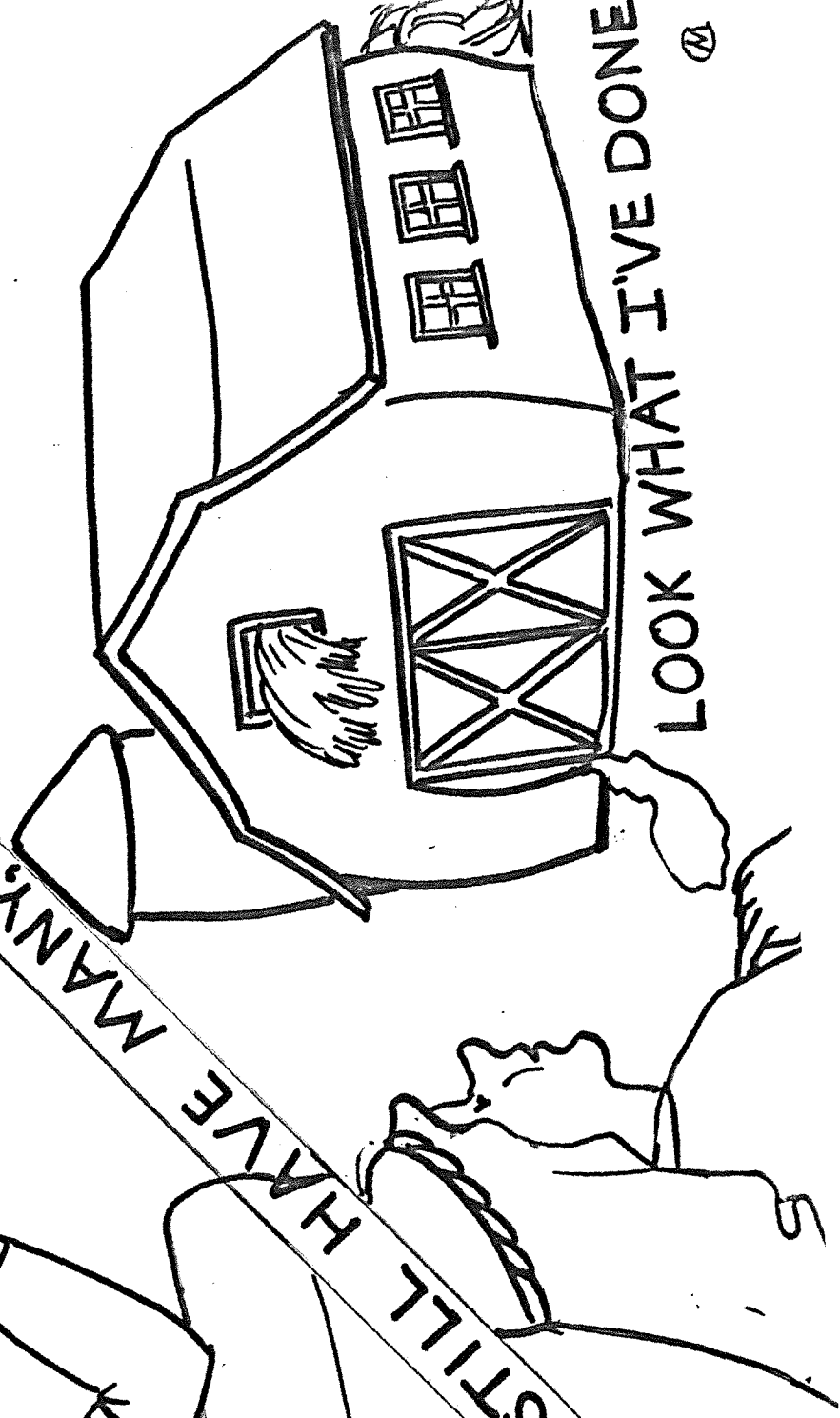
PLEASURE

STOOL



MANY RICH FOOLS

WE STILL HAVE

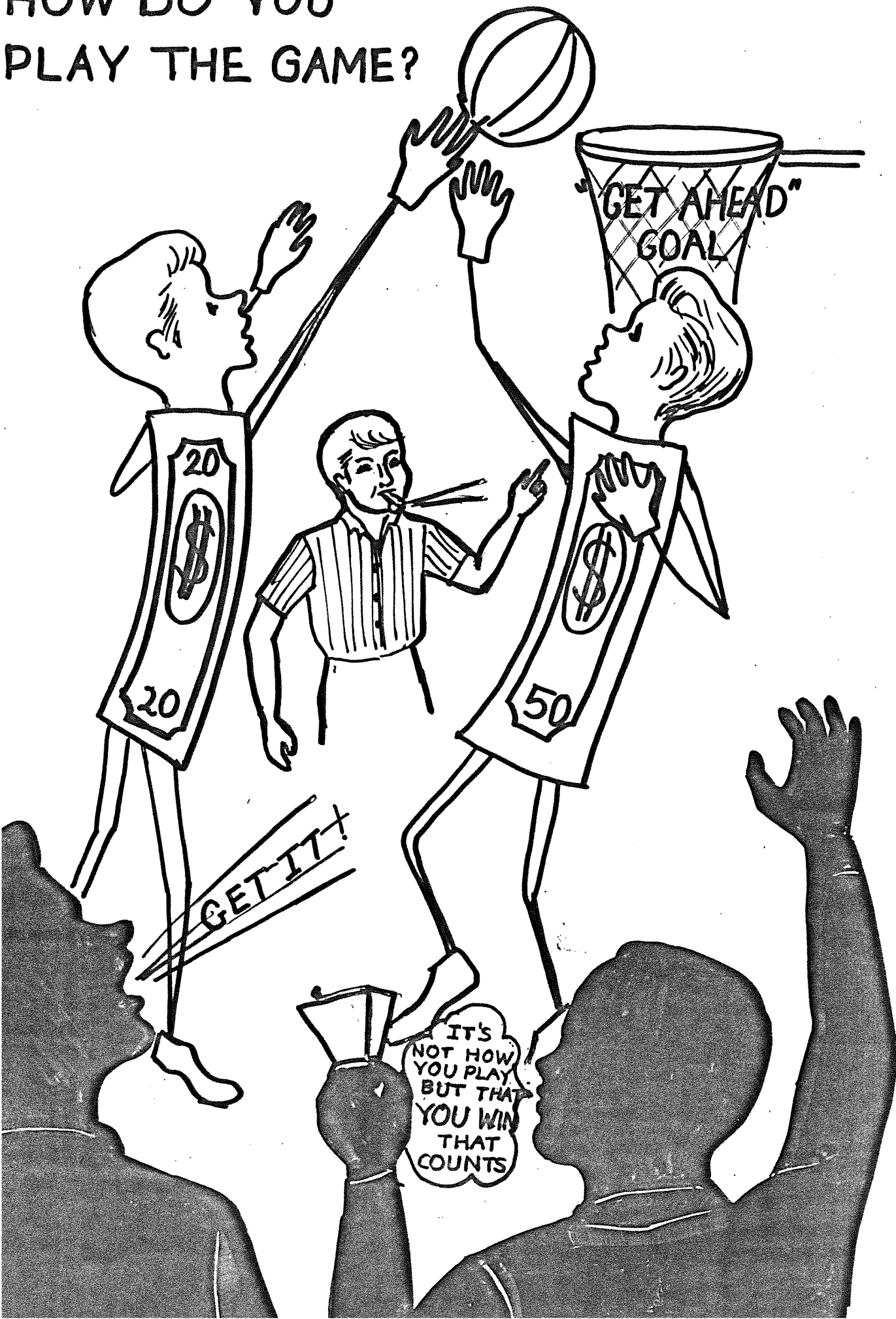


LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE

®

HOW DO YOU  
PLAY THE GAME?

11 a



YOUR  
IMPORTANCE  
TO GOD

FOR THE  
LESS  
FORTUNATE

EVALUATE  
HOW I  
TREAT OTHERS

# EXERCISES FOR SPIRITUAL FITNESS !

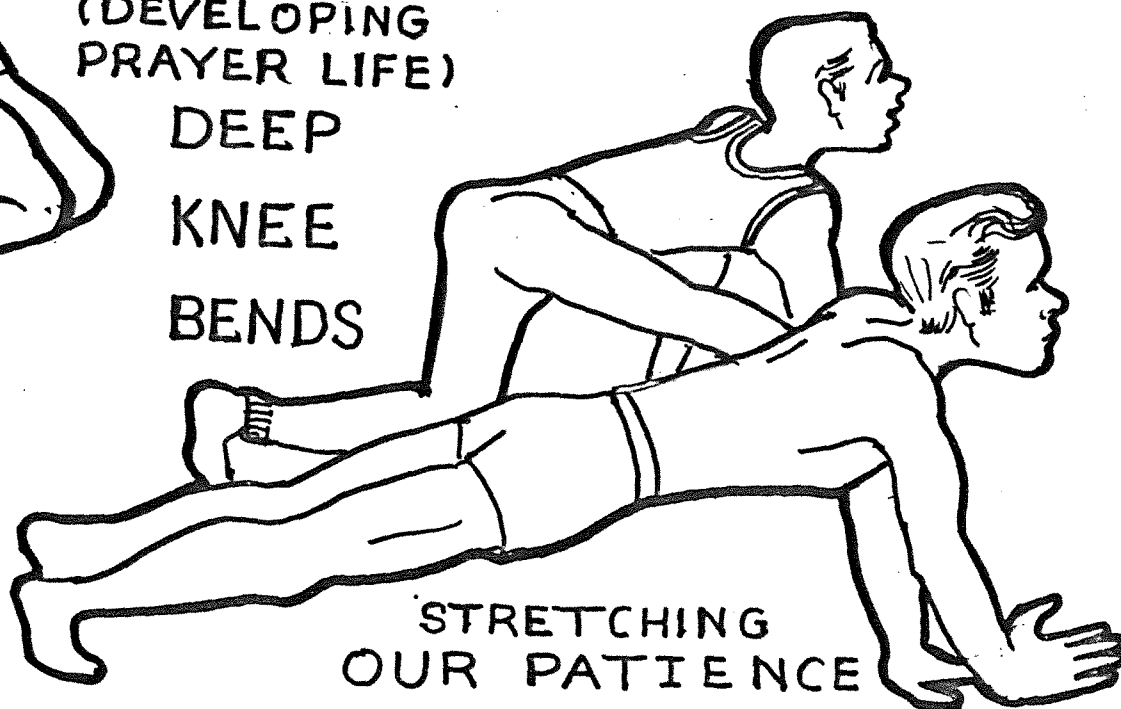


(DEVELOPING  
PRAYER LIFE)

DEEP

KNEE

BENDS



STRETCHING  
OUR PATIENCE



STRENGTHEN  
OUR  
OUTREACH

TRY SOME  
SPIRITUAL  
"WEIGHT LIFTING"

# THE BENEFITS OF A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

A SENSE OF LOSS  
OVER  
WASTED TIME

ANALYZE  
HOW YOU USE  
YOUR TIME