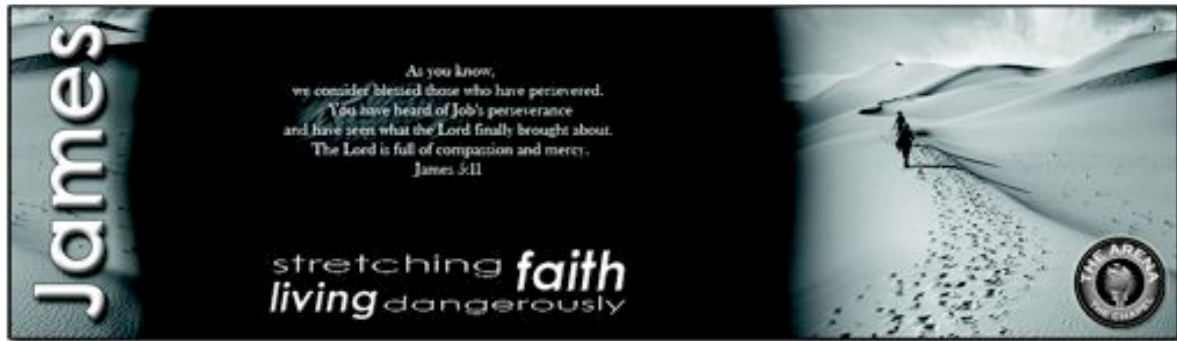


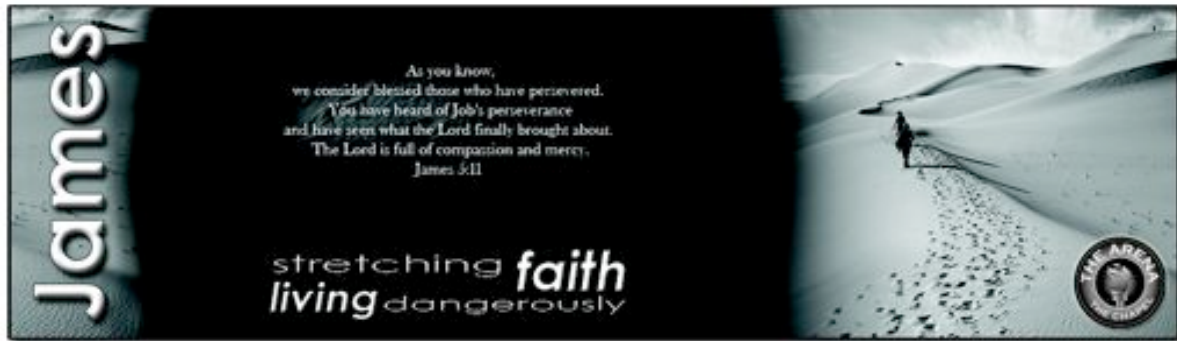
## Session #1 - James 1:1-12 'Perseverance in Trials'

1. Examine some common responses when trials and difficulties arise. How should Christians face trials? Look at the difference between 'finding joy' [passive] and 'choosing joy'. [v. 2]
2. In response to our trials, James comforts us with the hope that our struggles are not in vain; they have purpose. Explore the character traits developed as we encounter trials. [vv. 3-5] Define: perseverance.
3. Failure to persevere may bring compromise ~ as we question God's goodness. Investigate the consequences of doubting God's character during trials. [vv. 6-8] Look at how we are to pray.
4. Determine how an improper self-evaluation can lend itself to difficulty in trials. [vv. 9-11] Why is it harder to focus on spiritual wealth rather than material wealth?
5. Inspect the promise given in [verse 12](#).



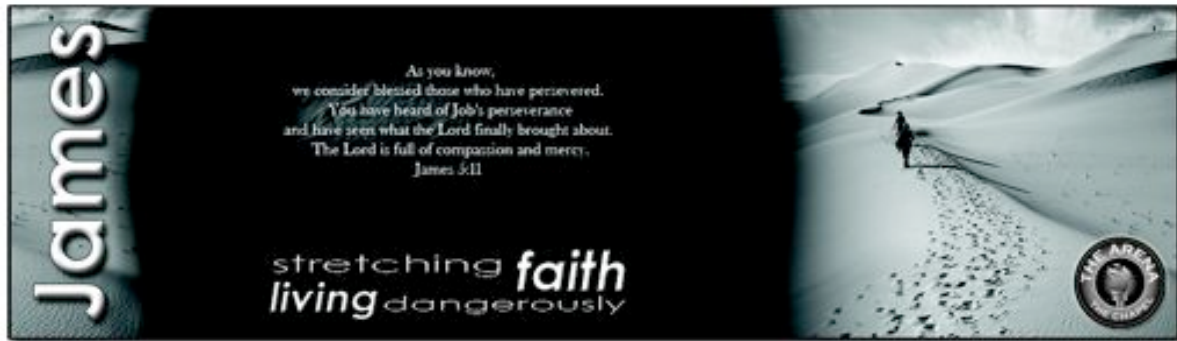
Session #2 – James 1:13-18 *'Who's to Blame?'*

1. Discuss what these verses reveal about the nature and character of God. What do these verses reveal about us? [Read: [II Peter 2:9](#); [I Corinthians 10:13](#)]
2. Describe the sequence from temptation to sin – using fishing [bait, hook, lure, etc.]. [v. 14] Consider how the bearing of a child resembles the birth of sin from temptation. [v. 15]
3. If God doesn't send temptations our way, review what He does send. [vv. 16-17]
4. Investigate what it means to be 'a kind of first fruits among God's creatures'. [Read: [Romans 8:19-23](#); [I Corinthians 15:20-23](#); [II Thessalonians 2:13](#)]



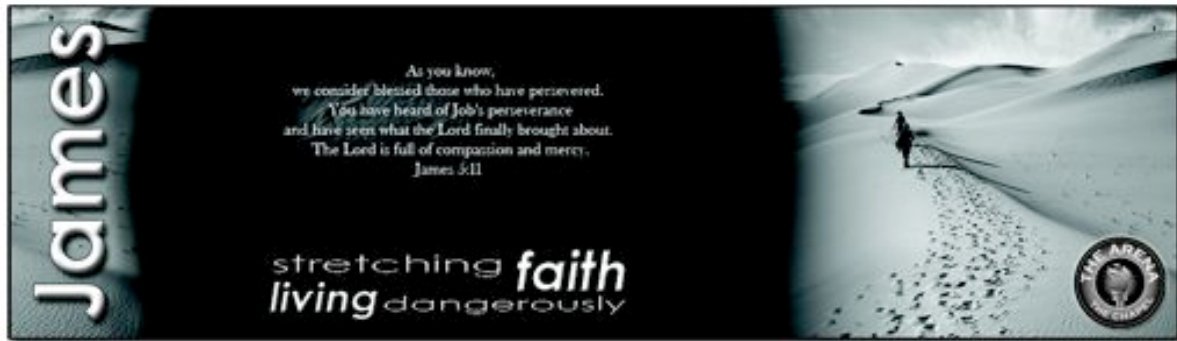
### Session #3 – James 1:19-27 *'Putting Faith to Work'*

1. James instructs us to be, 'quick to hear', 'slow to speak', 'slow to anger'. Assess which of these commands is most challenging. [Read: Proverbs 14:29; 17:28; 29:20; Psalm 39:1; 141:3-4]
2. Discuss the results of 'accepting the word planted in you'. [v. 21] [Read: Hebrews 4:12; Romans 1:16; Acts 17:11]
3. Compare and contrast the 'hearer' with the 'doer'. [vv.22-25]
4. Examine what it means to develop a faith 'unstained by the world'. What is significant about sharing concern for orphans and widows.



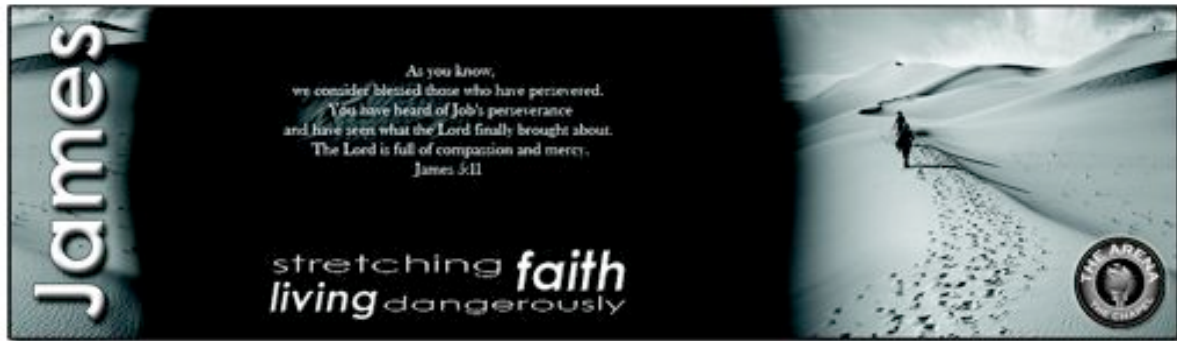
### Session #4 - James 2:1-13 *'Playing Favorites'*

1. Identify the attitudes that lie at the root of personal favoritism. [Read: [Isaiah 61:1-2](#); [1 Corinthians 1:26-29](#)]
2. Do the poor have fewer 'stumbling blocks' when it comes to receiving the Gospel? Discuss how you feel when you observe the less fortunate being slighted.
3. Our hectic lifestyles cause us to make snap judgments about people we encounter. Describe the criteria you use to evaluate the people you meet. What criteria does God use to measure us?
4. Consider how one fulfills the 'royal law'. [v. 8] [Read: [Matthew 22:36-40](#); [Luke 10:30-37](#)]



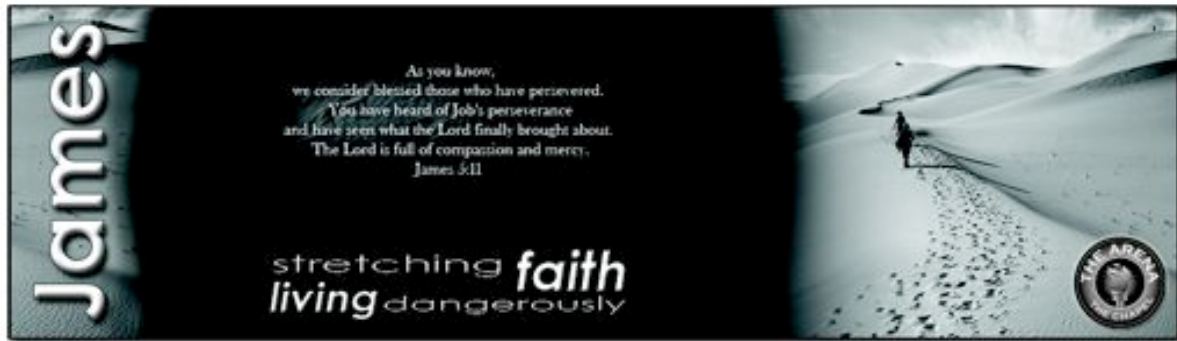
### Session #5 – James 2:13-26 [‘Trash Talk?’](#)

1. Analyze the struggle between ‘knowing about’ God and truly ‘knowing’ and accepting Christ. Discuss how our actions reflect our faith in Christ. In what ways can we expect our actions [thoughts, behaviors, motives] to change after we come to know the Lord?
2. Determine how Rahab demonstrated her faith in [Joshua 2:1-15](#). In what way does the evidence of her faith reveal the condition of her heart?
3. Our salvation is not dependent on our works, yet our good works are evidence of our salvation. Some folks remain undecided about their relationship with Christ yet manage to live a good moral life. Assess if these good deeds are sufficient. [[Read: Romans 3:2-28; Ephesians 2:8-10](#)]
4. Establish what it means to have a hollow or dead faith. What seems to be the driving force of real faith?



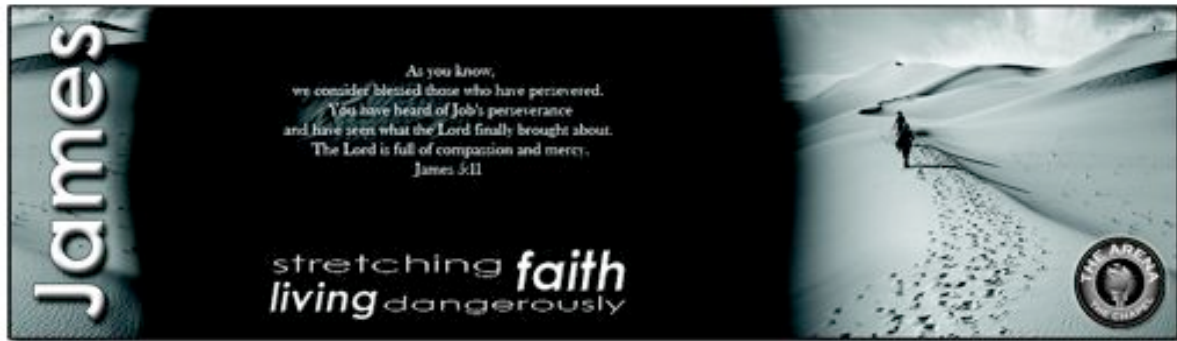
Session #6 – James 3:1-18 'Tongue Lock Down'

1. Explore why a teacher [coach] would incur a stricter judgment than others. In what way is having control of one's tongue a key to spiritual 'maturity'? [Read: Proverbs 11:11; 15:2; 15:7; 10:14; 18:6-7; Ecclesiastes 10:12]
2. Compare and contrast the sins of the tongue [gossiping, backbiting, etc.] to the sins committed by the other parts of the body [drunkenness, sexual impurity, fighting, etc.].
3. Analyze the causes for using the tongue improperly [trash talking, foul language, harsh tones, bragging, lying, criticizing, complaining, speaking crudely, flippant speech, talking abrasively, talking too much, being condescending, etc.].
4. [Read 2 Chronicles 1:1-12] If Solomon, who was granted both knowledge and wisdom by God, could grow into a fool, how can we make sure that we stay wise? [vv.13-18]



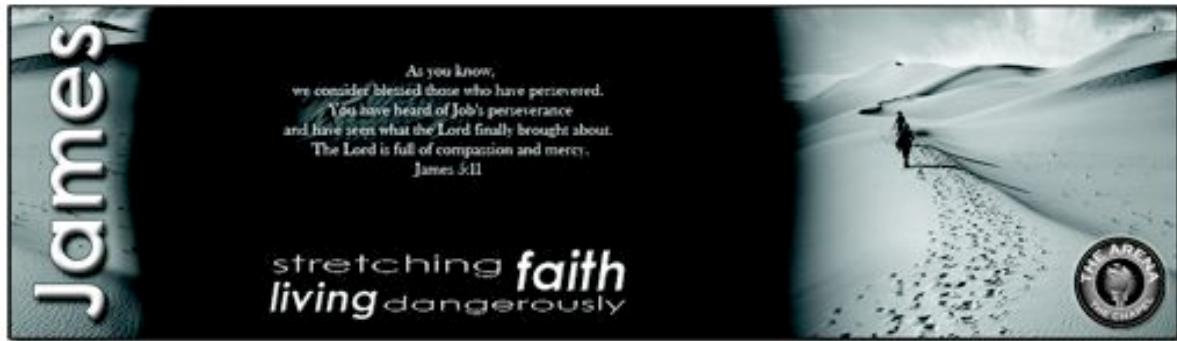
Session #7 – James 4:1-10 'Team Conflicts'

1. Discuss the general source of conflicts, quarrels, and dispute.  
Read: Luke 8:4-15 – How does this [especially v. 14] relate to James 4:1?
2. Read: Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 15:33; 16:19; Micah 6:8; Matthew 18:1-4; Luke 14:11; 1 John 2:16 Examine humility and the major impediment to becoming a humble person.
3. Detail the commands and the consequences attached to each.  
{Read: James 4:7-10} Discuss how these ten imperatives contribute to harmony and holiness.
4. Review how the principle in James 4:10 is illustrated by Jesus' life.  
[Read: Philippians 2:5-11] How is this manifested in our own lives?  
[Read: Philippians 2:3-4]



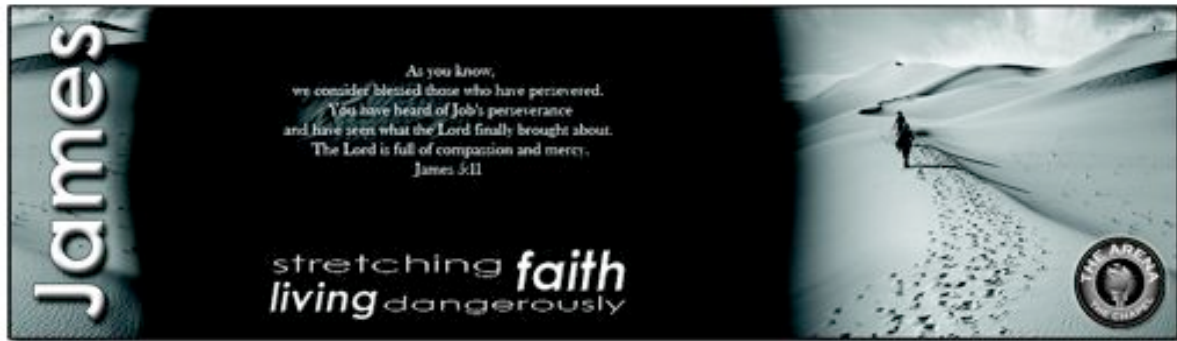
Session #8 – James 4:11-17 'Don't Play God'

1. Compare James' injunction with that of the Lord Jesus', [Read: [Matthew 7:1-5](#)]
2. Review [1 Peter 2:12](#); [3:16](#) in the context of appropriate living.
3. Who determines your tomorrows? Analyze how that changes the way you look at future plans. [vv. 13-15] [Read: [Proverbs 27:1](#); [Luke 12:16-21](#); [Proverbs 6:6-11](#)]
4. [Read: [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)] Discuss our prescribed attitude toward boasting.



Session #9 – James 5:1-6 *'Where's the Justice?'*

1. Assess common attitudes about money. [Read: 1 Timothy 6:8-10; 17-19]
2. Discuss the responsibilities and rewards as a manager of God's resources. [Read: Matthew 7:24-27]
3. Examine injustice evident in the distribution of wealth. How does such injustice make you feel?
4. Explore the concern for physical wealth sometimes overshadowing interest in spiritual wealth.



Session #10 – James 5:7-12 'Have Patience'

1. Evaluate this statement: 'patience is not really something you can receive or pray for . . . it is something you develop through the circumstances and choices of life.' [Read: [Jeremiah 26:1-16](#); [John 15:18-19](#)]
2. Recount the most common complaints. Describe how complaining makes one feel.
3. Consider [Daniel 6:4-28](#) Which of James' four directives [*be patient; strengthen your heart; do not complain; do not swear*] do you see illustrated in Daniel's life?
4. Notice the perseverance in trying circumstances. [Read: [Job 1:21-22](#); [2:10](#); [13:15](#); [19:25-17](#)]



Session #11 – James 5:13-20 'Test of True Faith'

1. In comparing yourself to an athlete – would you say you are capable of enduring a marathon of suffering or are you out of breath after only a few strides? [Read: Romans 5:3-5; II Timothy 2:9; 4:5]
2. Read: I Thessalonians 5:14, Hebrews 12:3; I Corinthians 11:27-32 What are the responsibilities listed that we must heed in helping the 'weak'?
3. Observe the way Elijah prayed [I Kings 17-18] Analyze why prayer is often our last resort rather than our first defense.  
[Read: I Thessalonians 5:17]
4. Examine the proper procedure for confrontation: Read – Matthew 7:1-2; Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 20:25-28.