

# Listening Guide

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This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

## **I. Introduction to James and 1 Peter**

[1] Why are the General Epistles called "General"?

## **II. Background of James**

### **A. Authorship**

[2] Which James in the New Testament did early church tradition support as the author of this book?

**B. Date**

[3] How do James's teachings on justification by faith in James 2 relate to one's view of when the book was written?

[4] On the other hand, a slight majority of more conservative commentators view the Paul/James relationship in a different way and suggest what date for James's writing?

**C. Audience**

[5] Briefly describe the people James seems to have been writing to.

**D. Structure**

[6] Is James easy or difficult to outline? Why?

**III. Analysis**

[7] Chapter 1 introduces us to three key themes that seem to remain prominent for a substantial amount of James's teaching in this letter. What important point does Dr. Blomberg make about the three key themes in chapter 1?

### **A. Statement of the Three Key Themes**

**[8]** What is James's first theme introduced in 1:2–4?

**[9]** What is the theme introduced in James 1:5–8?

**[10]** What is the theme James introduced in 1:9–11?

### **B. Restatement of the Three Key Themes (James 1:12–27)**

**[11]** What does the rest of chapter 1 do with these three key themes?

**[12]** What is James's main point here that is summed up in 1:19?

### **C. The Third Theme Expounded (James 2:1–26)**

**[13]** What theme occupies James's attention throughout chapter 2?

**[14]** What is the issue between the rich and the poor that James warns against in James 2:1–4?

**[15]** What is James 2:14–26 famous for?

**[16]** How did Luther respond to the issue of harmonizing James 2:14–26 with Paul’s teaching in Galatians and Romans?

**[17]** Did Dr. Blomberg offer any Pauline statements that support the idea that works are an essential outflow from the Christian faith? If so, list them.

**[18]** Summarize what Dr. Blomberg said about the difference between the works Paul referred to and the works James referred to.

#### **D. Second Theme Expounded (James 3:1–4:17)**

[19] Dr. Blomberg states, “Particularly in 4:2 in this context of the combined themes of speech and wisdom, appear key teachings on prayer about why we do not have certain things God wants to give us.” What three reasons did Dr. Blomberg give for why we do not have what we ask for in prayer?

#### **E. First Theme Expanded (James 5:1–18)**

[20] In addition to James’s teaching on prayer and patience in the face of injustice, what does every Christian have the right and responsibility to do?

[21] What is there no precedent here or elsewhere in the New Testament for Christians to do?

#### **F. Application**

[22] What two themes of contemporary significance loom large as we think back on James’s epistle?

### **IV. Background of 1 Peter**

[23] When was 1 Peter written?

[24] To whom was 1 Peter written?

[25] What was the ethnicity of most of Peter's readers?

[26] What is the significance of the terms Peter used throughout 1 Peter?

[27] How is Peter's approach to exhortation different from Paul's and James's?

## **V. Analysis of 1 Peter**

### **A. Introduction (1 Peter 1:1–12)**

[28] How did Peter begin his letter?

### **B. Call to Christian Holiness (1 Peter 1:13–2:10)**

[29] In this section, Peter came up with strategies to help Christians cope with what issue?

[30] What was the first of these strategies?

[31] What form did Peter use in the main body of his epistle that's like Ephesians and Colossians?

**C. Principles of Submission (1 Peter 2:11–3:22)**

[32] What did Peter call Christian citizens to do in 2:11–25?

[33] How did Peter use the christological sections in 1 Peter?

[34] What did Dr. Blomberg say was the “most puzzling portion of theology in 1 Peter,” found in 3:18–22?

[35] What did Dr. Blomberg say was the most probable interpretation of this “most puzzling portion of theology in 1 Peter”?

### **D. Call for Perseverance (1 Peter 4:1–5:14)**

[36] What four things did Peter command those under hostile circumstances to do?

### **E. Conclusion**

[37] In addition to the typical concluding portion of a letter, what group did Peter address in 1 Peter 5:12–14?

### **F. Summary**

[38] Dr. Blomberg suggested two quite different tacks to summarize 1 Peter.

If we take the tack that Peter is describing a “home for the homeless,” what should we do?

If we take the tack that Christians are to “seek the welfare of the city,” what should we do?

### **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.



## **Application**

James teaches that Christian faith without works is a dead faith. Dr. Blomberg's summary of 1 Peter suggests two alternate faith responses to Peter's message. What practical steps of faith should Christians take in response to either one of Dr. Blomberg's alternate suggestions?