

# JAMES

A Faith That Works Study 13

Slandering and Judging

James 4:11-12

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“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”

1) Comprehension question. From the video lecture, what do we learn about slandering?

<h1>Slander is</h1>	A Sin
	Stealing
	Self Indulgent
	Cowardly
	Lays the Seed for more Sin
	Judging Others

2) Objective question. What is the meaning of “speaking evil”?

- A) Devaluation of a person in the eyes of others
- B) Defame - public false accusation or disparagement
- C) Denigrate - private or covert grumbling

James 5:9

“Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”

**3) Reflection question. Based on James 5:9, grumbling against others can bring us condemnation. Share an instance of how we have grumbled against someone.**

Proverbs 20:19

“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets;  
Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”

**4) Discussion question. Based on Proverbs 20:19, a talebearer (person who slanders) just has to reveal a secret about someone else. Must it be a true secret for it to be harmful to someone else? What if it was a lie?**

Slander is not about telling lies, it is about telling the truth but in a certain way.

**5) Discussion question. Can someone be completely truthful while slandering another person?**

We need to examine the purpose of telling the truth

- Is it for transparency?
- Or to judge and tear the other person down?

### Section 1 - Slander is a Sin

**6) Discussion question. The Bible says that slander a sin. What makes it a sin? Consider Leviticus 19:16, Psalm 50:20, Psalm 101:5-6.**

- Leviticus 19:16 – do not harm your neighbour
- Psalm 50:20 - speak against brother, slander
- Psalm 101:5-6 - God will destroy

## Section 2 - Slandering is Stealing

Proverbs 22:1

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
Loving favor rather than silver and gold.”

**7) Comprehension question. What do we steal from others when we slander them?**

Their reputation.

## Section 3 - Slander is Self Indulgent

**8) Objective question. Based on the video lecture, how is engaging in slander self indulgent?**

- A) It makes others look good
- B) Elevating self
- C) We perceive ourselves as not immoral compared to others
- D) Builds up self confidence
- E) Builds up self image
- F) Builds up others

## Section 4 - Slander is Cowardly

**9) a) Comprehension question. Slander is cowardly because one is trying to gain sympathizers without doing the courageous work of bringing it directly to the source of our concern/offense. Based on the video lecture, what is one common way a Christian can camouflage slander?**

- Sharing concern... prayer point
- With someone who cannot help
- Our character is in serious question since we are willing to vandalize another's character to gain allies.
- Speculation of motive

**b) Discussion question. What should we do instead?**

- Shared concern with this person directly
- Is this information something I should know?
- Should we help to pursue reconciliation?
- How can I help to guard this person's reputation like a treasure?

**Section 5 - Slander Lays the Seed for more Sin**

**10) Objective question. Based on the video lecture, slander lays the seed for more sin. In other words, it paves the way for other more heinous sins. In terms of God's law, is social injustice better/worse/equally bad to the sin of murder? (Refer to Matt. 5:21-22)**

- A. Better than murder
- B. Worse than murder
- C. Equally bad as murder

**Section 6 - Slander is Judging Others**

**11) Objective question. Based on the video lecture, what are the effects of judging?**

- A) Make others lose respect
- B) Improves the character of the judged
- C) Drain others of social capital or influence
- D) Pay back (Revenge)
- E) Edifies others
- F) Punish others
- G) To destroy relationships

**12) Comprehension question. Instead of judging, what is the role of a brother/sister towards a fellow Christian?**

- Redeem
- Same level
- No superior

**13) Comprehension question. Based on James 4:11, we are judging the law by judging others and speaking evil of the law when speaking evil of others. Why?**

- The Law compels us to love
  - Matt. 22:37-40
    - Love your neighbour
  - James 2:8
- Slander is saying that the law is judged to be unworthy of being followed

1 Cor. 5:12-13

“For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.””

**14) a) Comprehension question. Based on 1 Cor. 5:12-13, when must a Christian judge?**

**b) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, under what circumstances must we exercise our judgment?**

- Reporting confirmed, documented sin and abuse
- Acting in leadership or in civil authority
- Protecting others from harm
- Seeking spiritual counsel

#### Takeaway

1. Slander is a Sin
2. Slandering is Stealing
3. Slander is Self Indulgent
4. Slander is Cowardly
5. Slander Lays the Seed for more Sin
6. Slander is Judging Others

## Case Study

### Case 1 – Being Judgmental and Being Discerning

John 8:2-11

“Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”“

- 1) Discussion question. What is the difference between being judgmental and being discerning?
- 2) Discussion question. In John 8:2-11, was the Lord Jesus being judgmental or being discerning?
- 3) Discussion question. Was the Lord Jesus compromising on sin by letting the woman go free? Explain why or why not.
- 4) a) Discussion question. Can we be discerning without condemning others?

**b) Discussion question. How can we discern to uncover real sin without being judgmental?**

**5) Reflection question. How are some ways in which we judge others without meaning to?**

**6) Discussion question. If you find out someone's sin that needs to be addressed, what is the right way to go about it?**