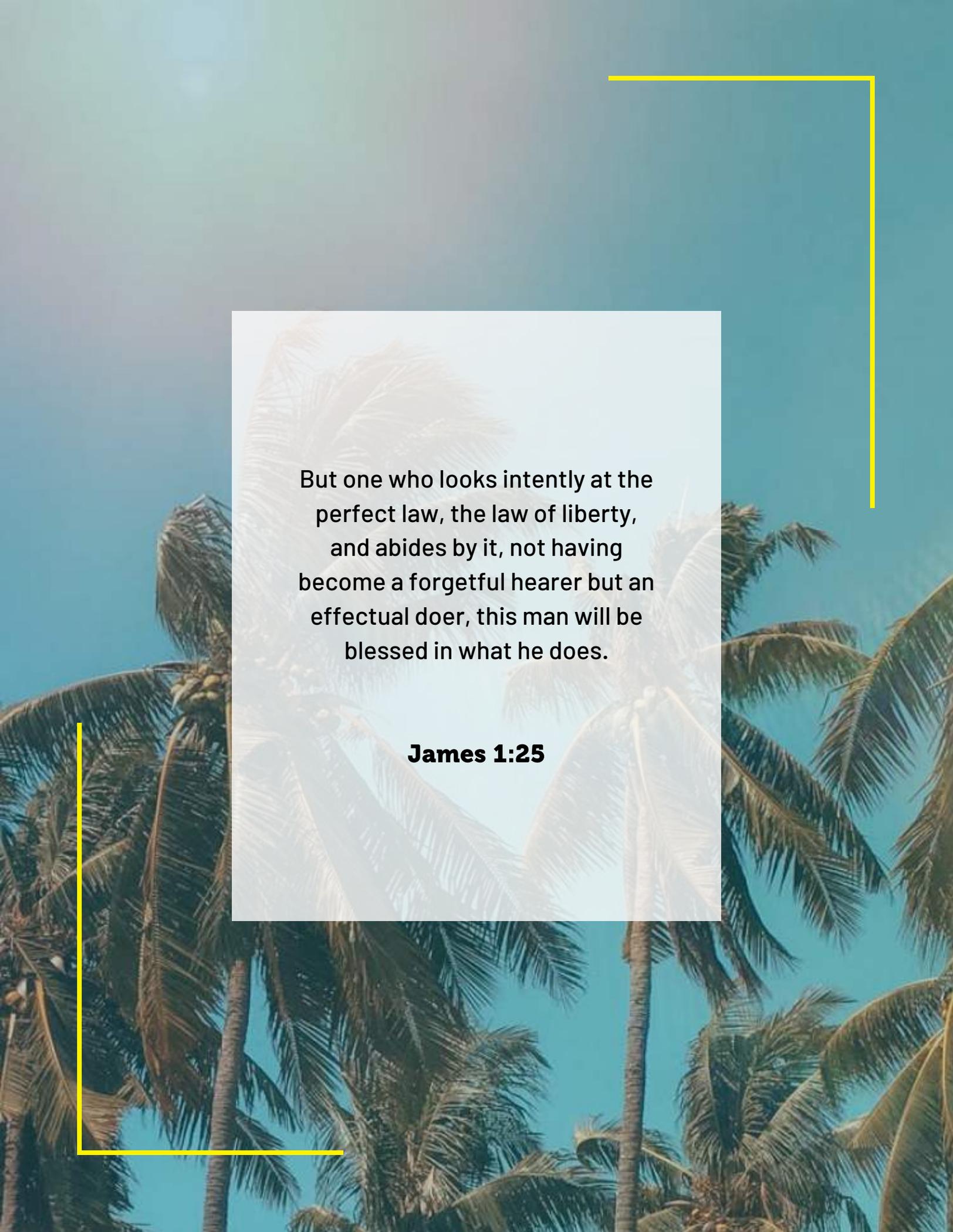




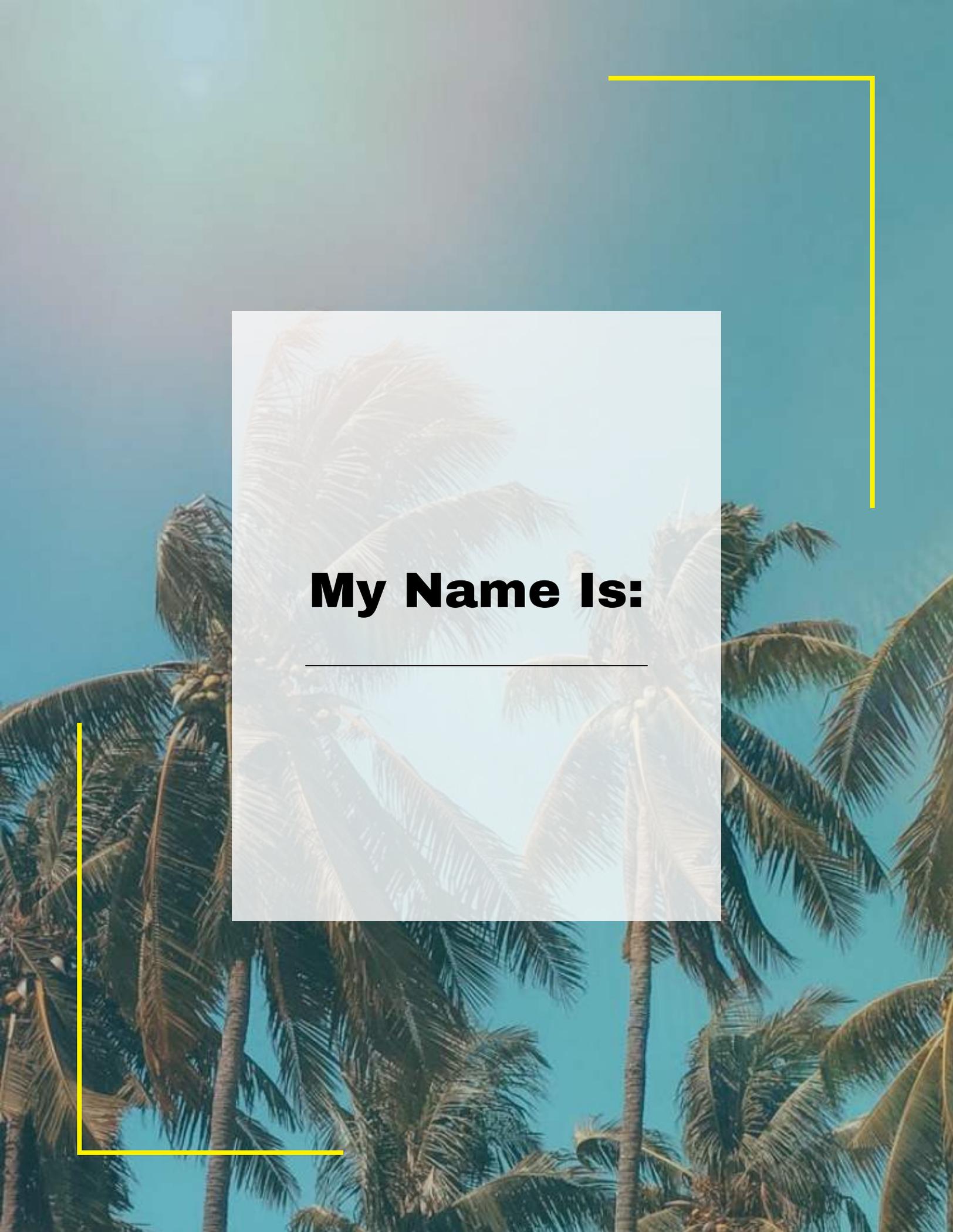
# SUMMER/ ***GAINS***

NO (SPIRITUAL) DAYS OFF



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 will be blessed in what he does.

**James 1:25**



**My Name Is:**

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## **The Purpose of Daily Focused Time with God**

### **To give devotion to God**

"[Hezekiah] was successful, because everything he did... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God." 2 Chronicles 31:21

### **To get direction from God**

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me..." Psalm 25:4

### **To gain delight in God**

"Delight yourself in the Loard; and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4

### **To grow more like God**

"Jesus has the power of God, by which he has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know Him... With these gifts you can share in being like God." 2 Peter 1:4

# How To Start Your Focused Time In God's Word

## Getting Started

1. Get a Bible, journal and a pen. Or just print this devotional and grab a pen!
2. Find a place somewhere without distractions.
3. Pick a regular time. Time with God is a great way to start the day for success, but the important thing is to pick a time that motivates consistency.

## Getting the most out of reading your Bible

1. Scripture: As you read, there may be a particular verse that catches your attention, or it might be an entire passage. Make note of the specific scripture that stands out to you.
2. Observation: From the scripture that stands out to you, what do you think God is saying to you? What do you see happening that you can learn from? What do the verses say about God or about the way God designed life to work? Make a few notes of your general observations.
3. Application: What thoughts, attitudes, perspectives, values, and/or behavior needs to change to be aligned with God's word? What area of life needs to be surrendered to Jesus and obedient to God? What ways do you need to trust God and choose to follow Him? What ways should you take God's word more seriously and be careful to stay in line with it? Make a few notes and create a plan to experience life change because of what you learned in the Bible.
4. Prayer: Spend some time praying about what you learned from the passage and surrendering your life to follow God. Praise Him for what He's already done in your life or in the lives of others. Thank Him in advance for what He will do in the future.

## **Devotional Week 1: 6/3-6/9**

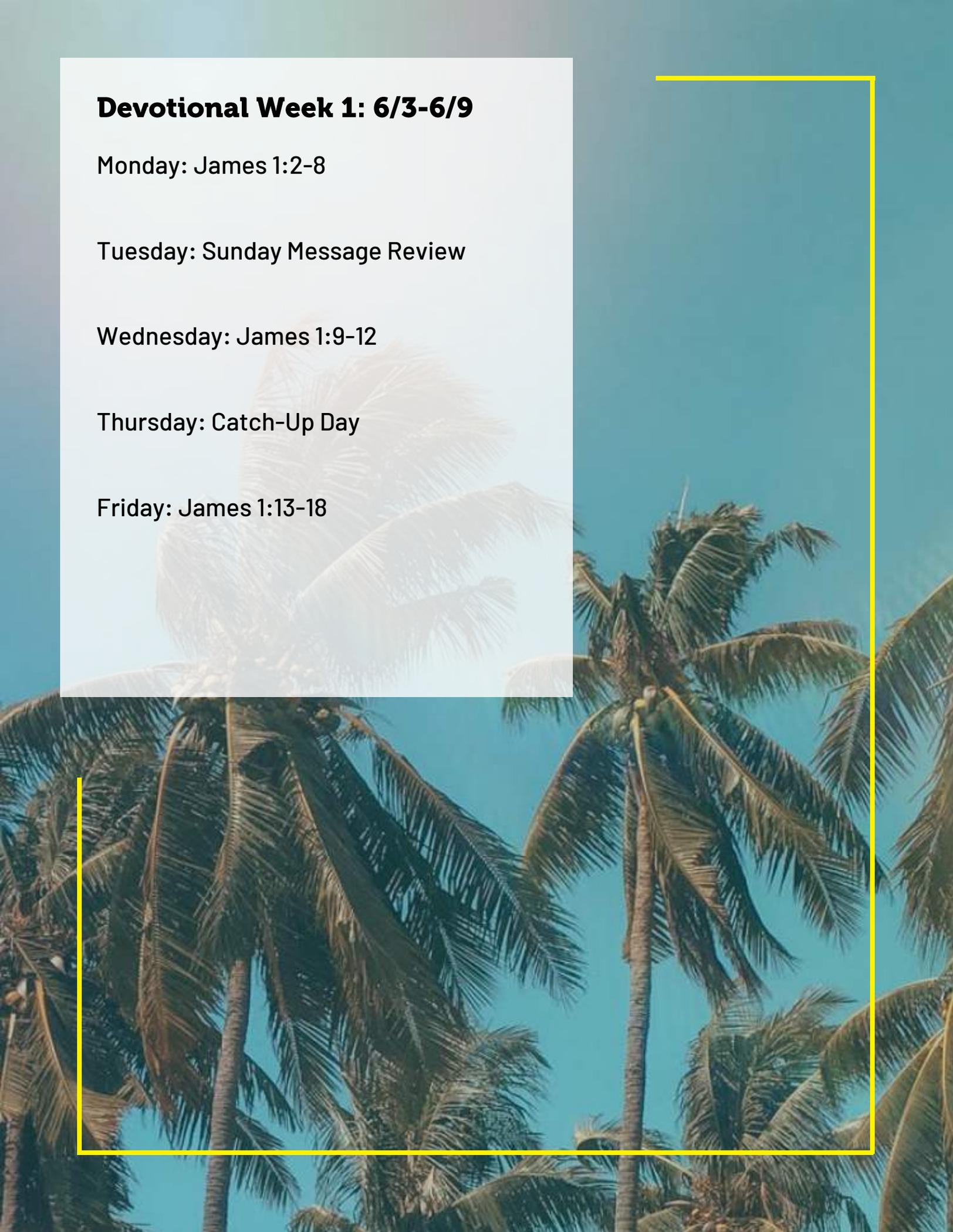
Monday: James 1:2-8

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 1:9-12

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 1:13-18



## **Trials & Temptations**

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

# Sunday Message Review

## 1. Read over your notes from the Sunday message

(If you missed Sunday's message, you can listen at [chicocommunity.church/messages/](http://chicocommunity.church/messages/) )

- What stands out to you from your notes?
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- Is there something that seems particularly encouraging or motivating?
- What truth can you start applying to your life?
- What is a simple next step you can take to begin thinking or behaving more in line with what God's word says?
- How can you be an encouragement to those around you this week?

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- Thank God for being faithful to provide truth and direction for your life
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- Repent if necessary & commit to moving forward with God in whatever areas He has called you to
- Ask God to provide you the strength and courage to confidently obey
- Praise for the ways He will continue to work through these truths

## **Trials & Temptations**

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Trials & Temptations**

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 2: 6/10-6/16**

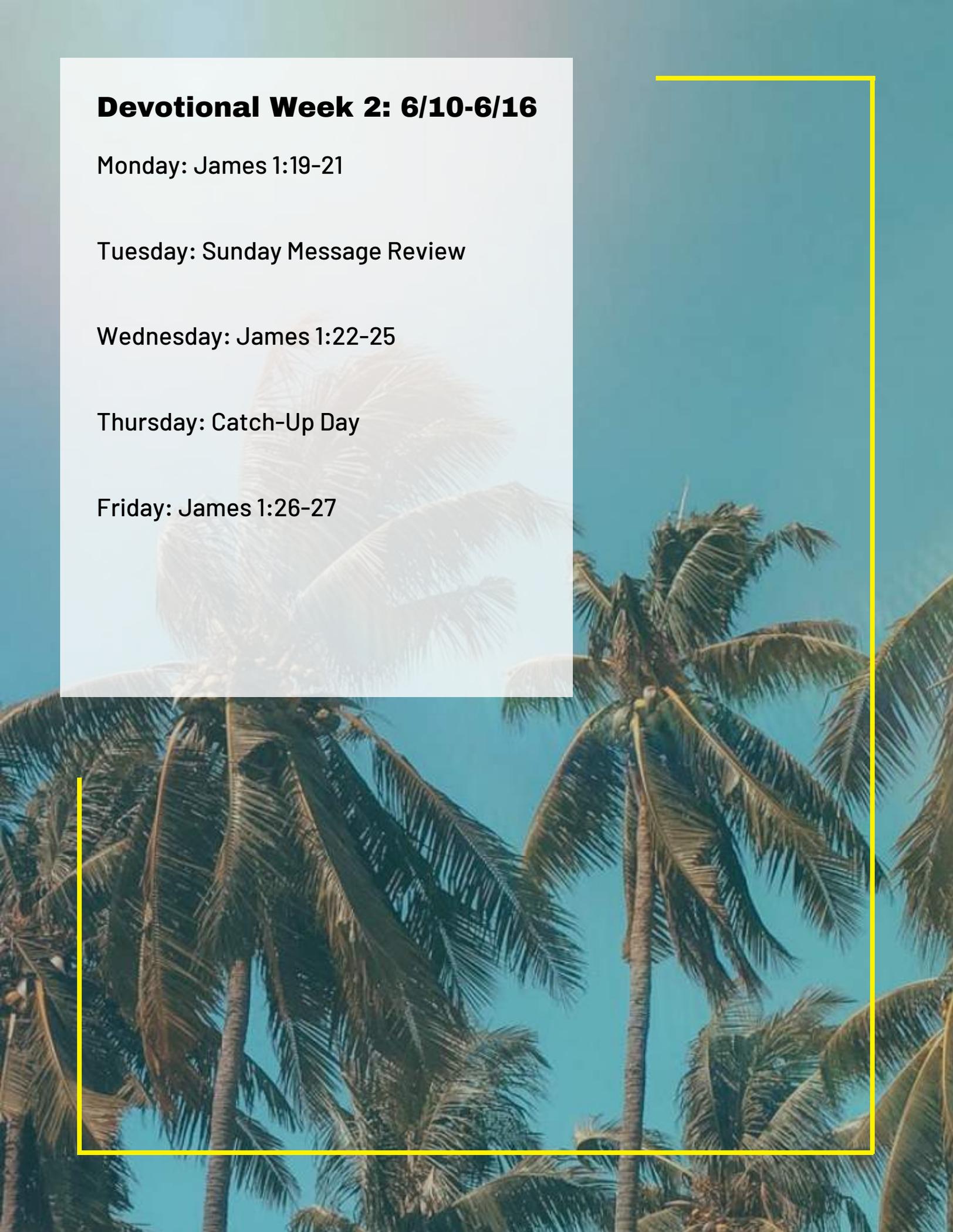
Monday: James 1:19-21

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 1:22-25

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 1:26-27



## **Listening and Doing**

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

# Sunday Message Review

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## **Listening and Doing**

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Listening and Doing**

26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 3: 6/17-6/23**

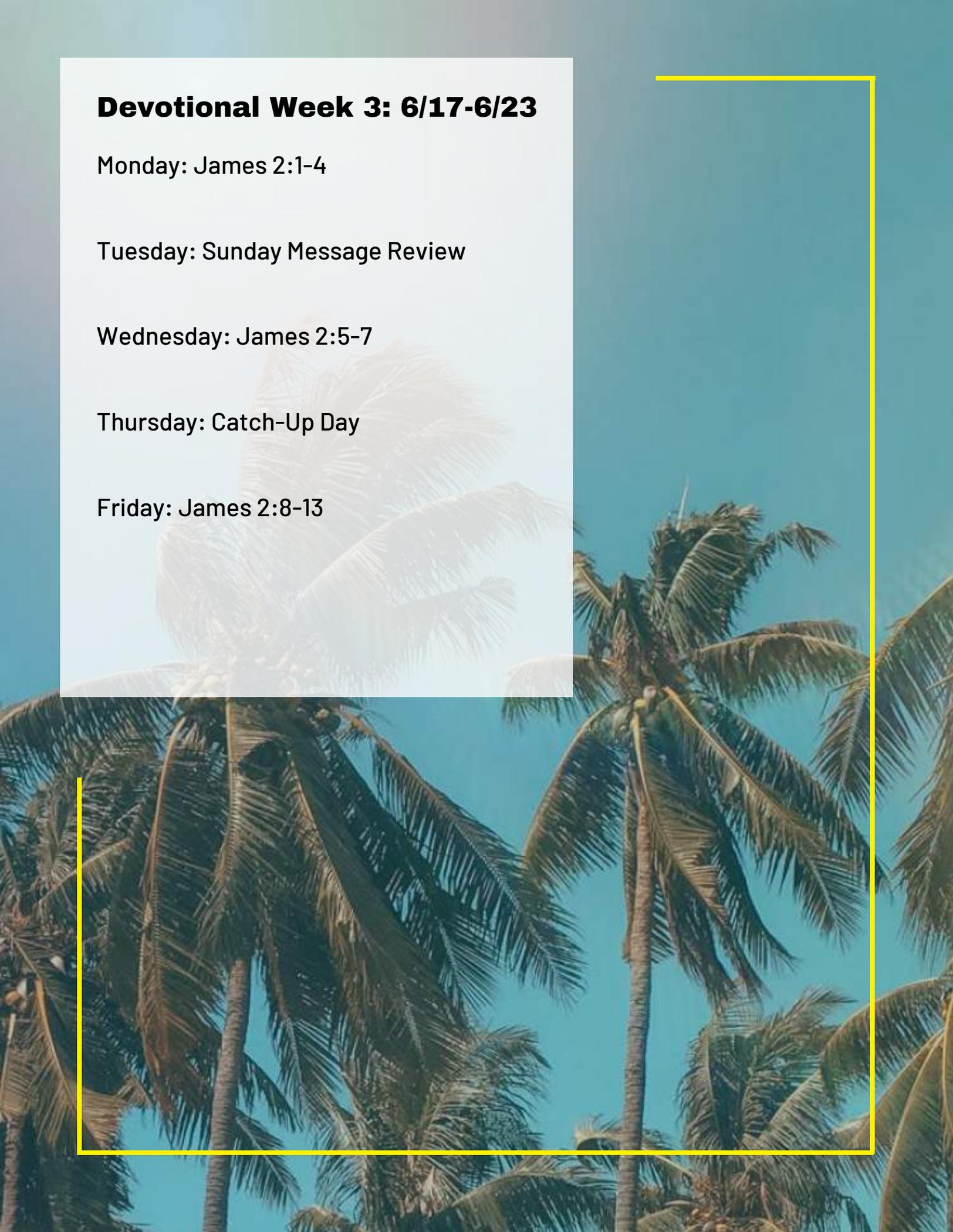
Monday: James 2:1-4

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 2:5-7

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 2:8-13



## **Favoritism Forbidden**

My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

# Sunday Message Review

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## **Favoritism Forbidden**

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Favoritism Forbidden**

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 4: 6/24-/630**

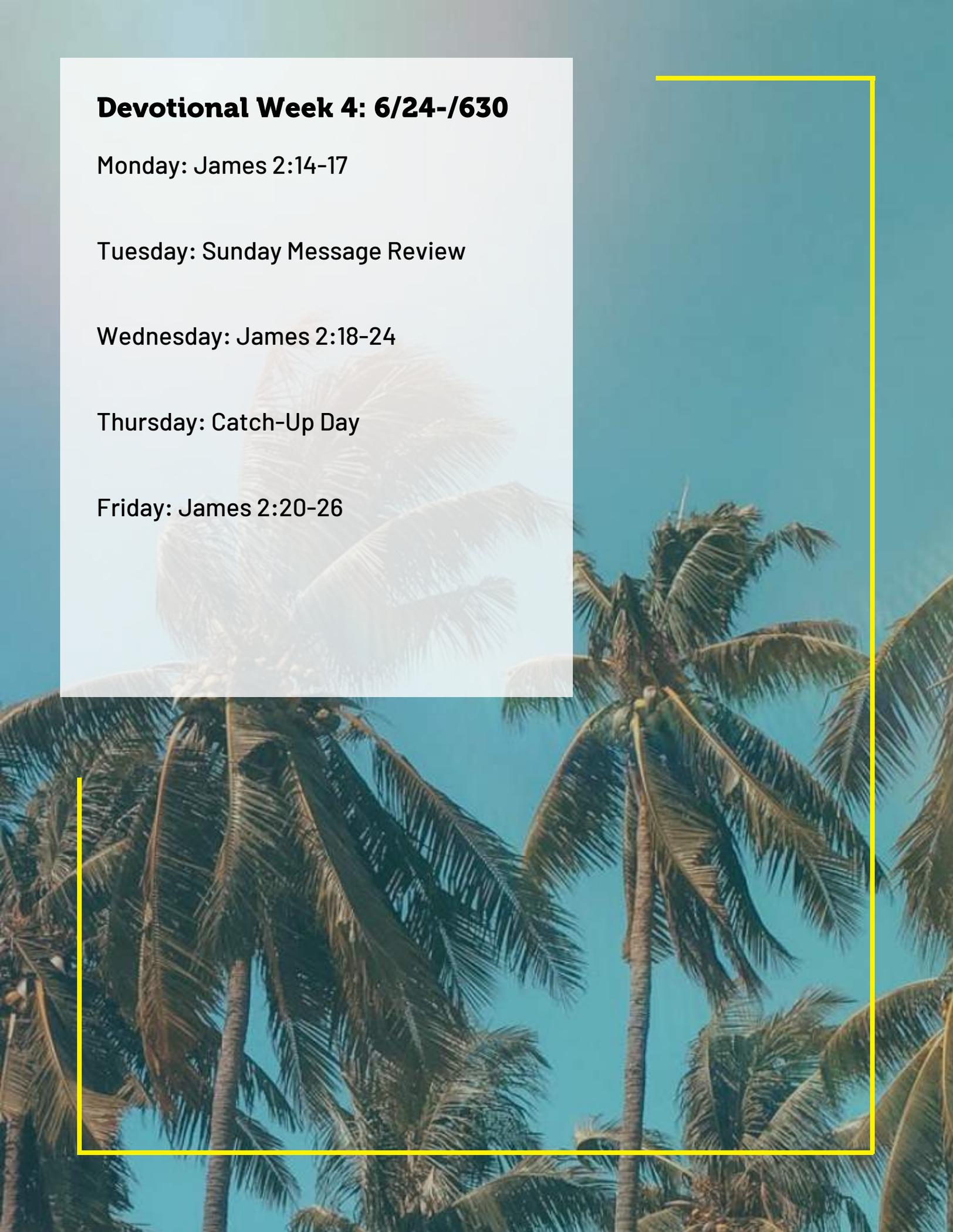
Monday: James 2:14-17

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 2:18-24

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 2:20-26



## **Faith and Deeds**

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

# Sunday Message Review

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- Praise for the ways He will continue to work through these truths

## **Faith and Deeds**

18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds."

Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God.

Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith

without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his

son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made

complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to

him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24

You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Faith and Deeds**

20 You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24 You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.

25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 5: 7/1-7/7**

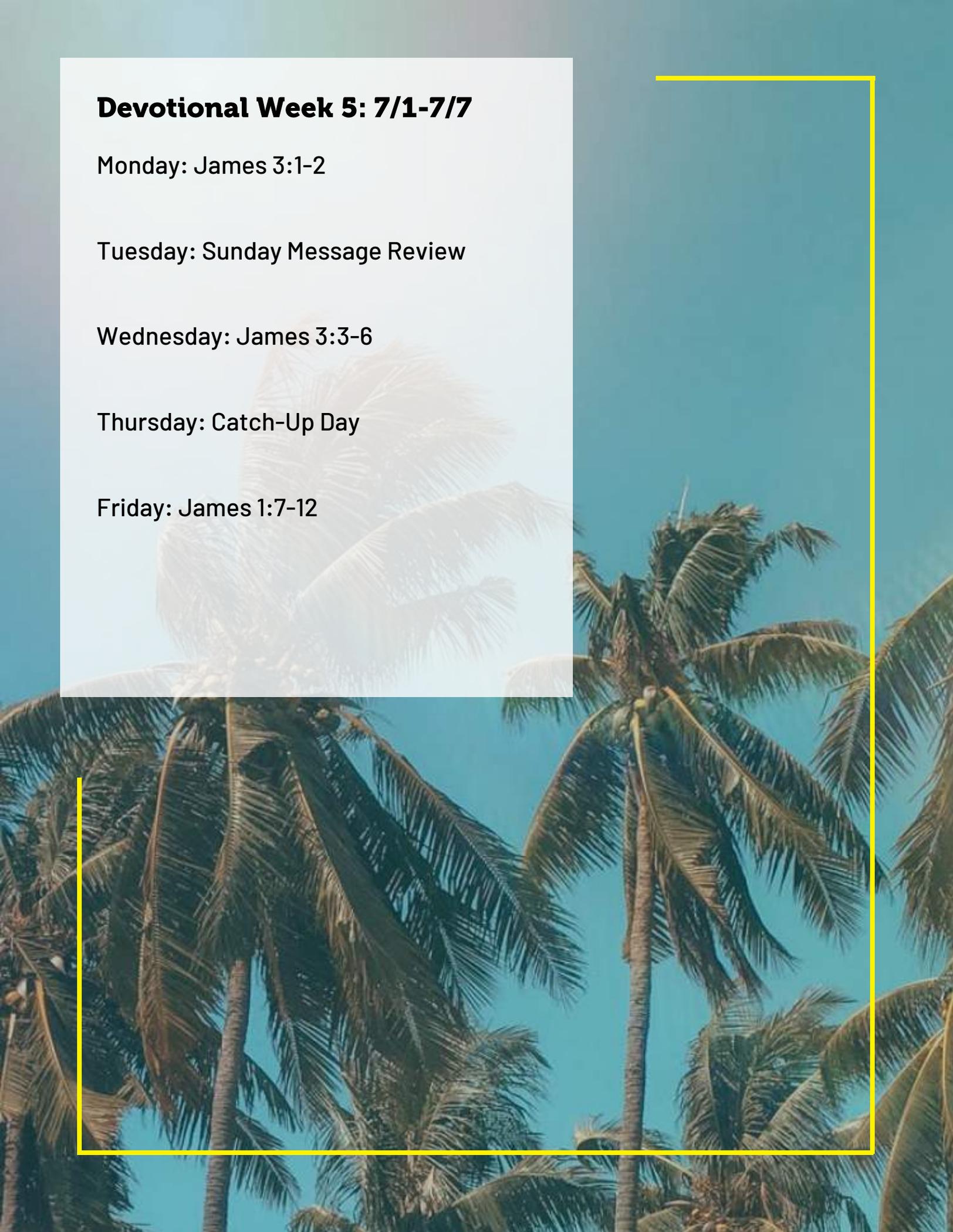
Monday: James 3:1-2

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 3:3-6

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 1:7-12



## **Taming the Tongue**

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

# Sunday Message Review

## 1. Read over your notes from the Sunday message

(If you missed Sunday's message, you can listen at [chicocommunity.church/messages/](http://chicocommunity.church/messages/) )

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## **Taming the Tongue**

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Taming the Tongue**

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 6: 7/8-7/14**

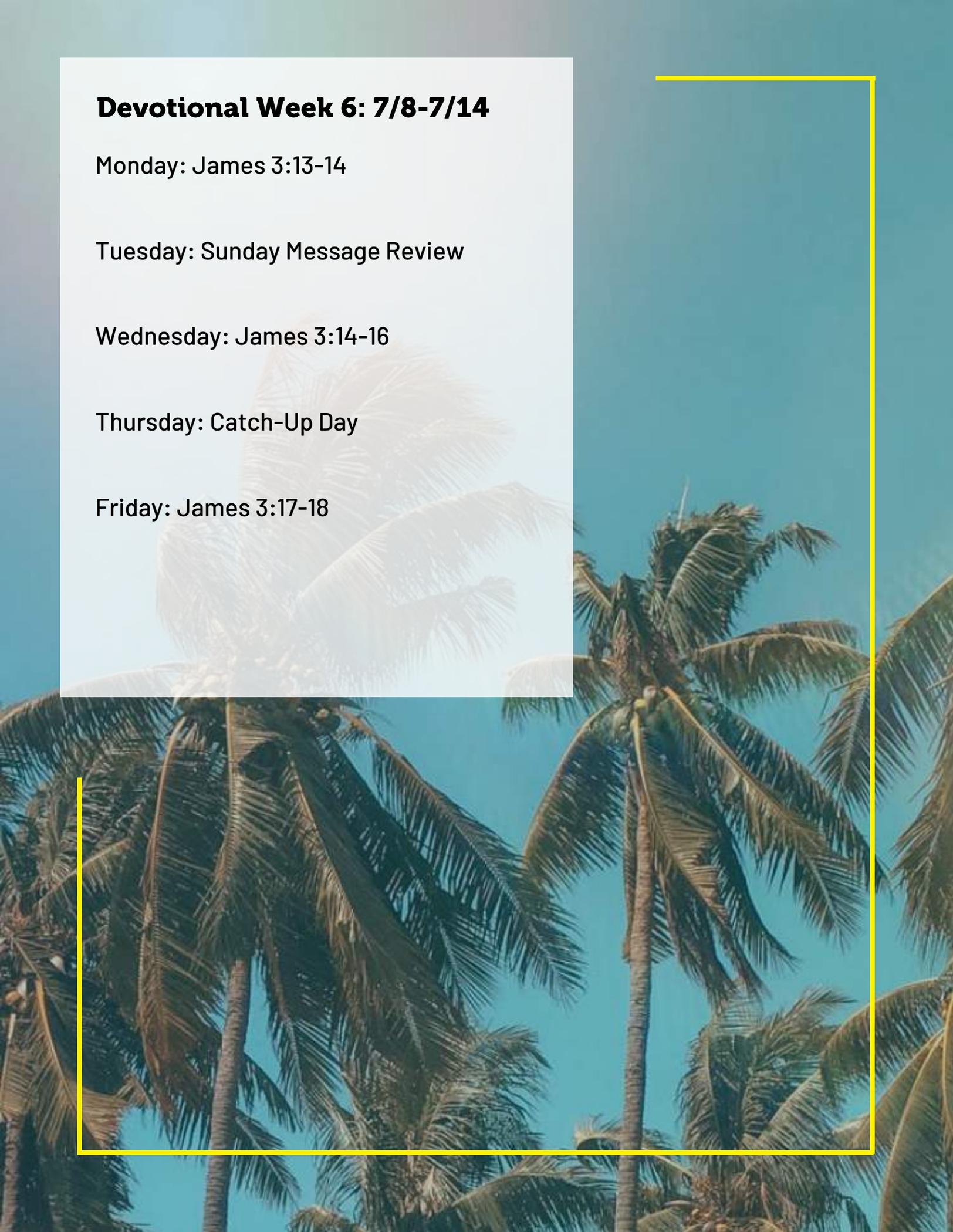
Monday: James 3:13-14

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 3:14-16

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 3:17-18



## **Two Kinds of Wisdom**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

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## **Two Kinds of Wisdom**

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Two Kinds of Wisdom**

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 7: 7/15-7/21**

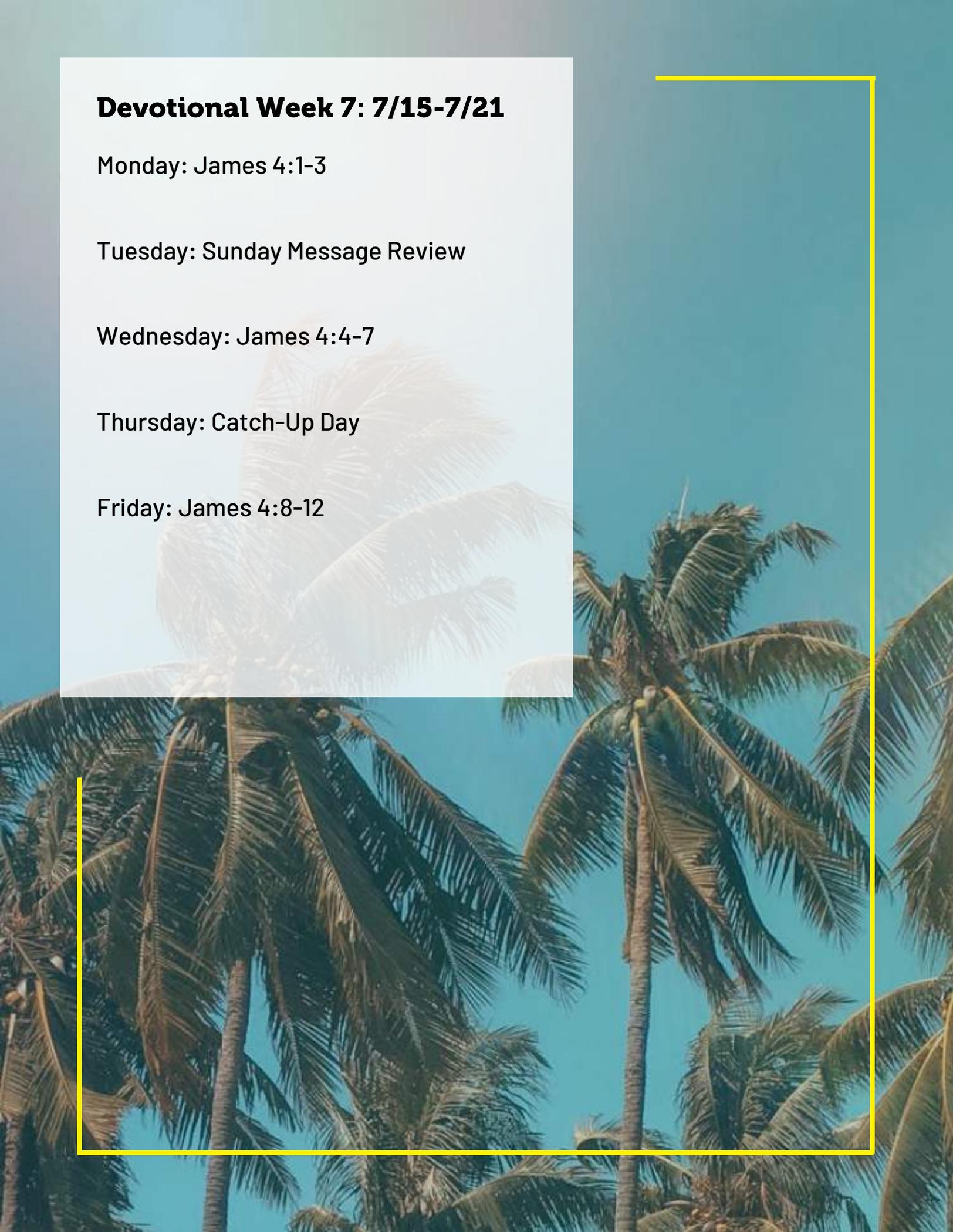
Monday: James 4:1-3

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 4:4-7

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 4:8-12



## **Submit Yourselves to God**

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

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# Sunday Message Review

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## **Submit Yourselves to God**

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Submit Yourselves to God**

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

11 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **Devotional Week 8: 7/22-7/28**

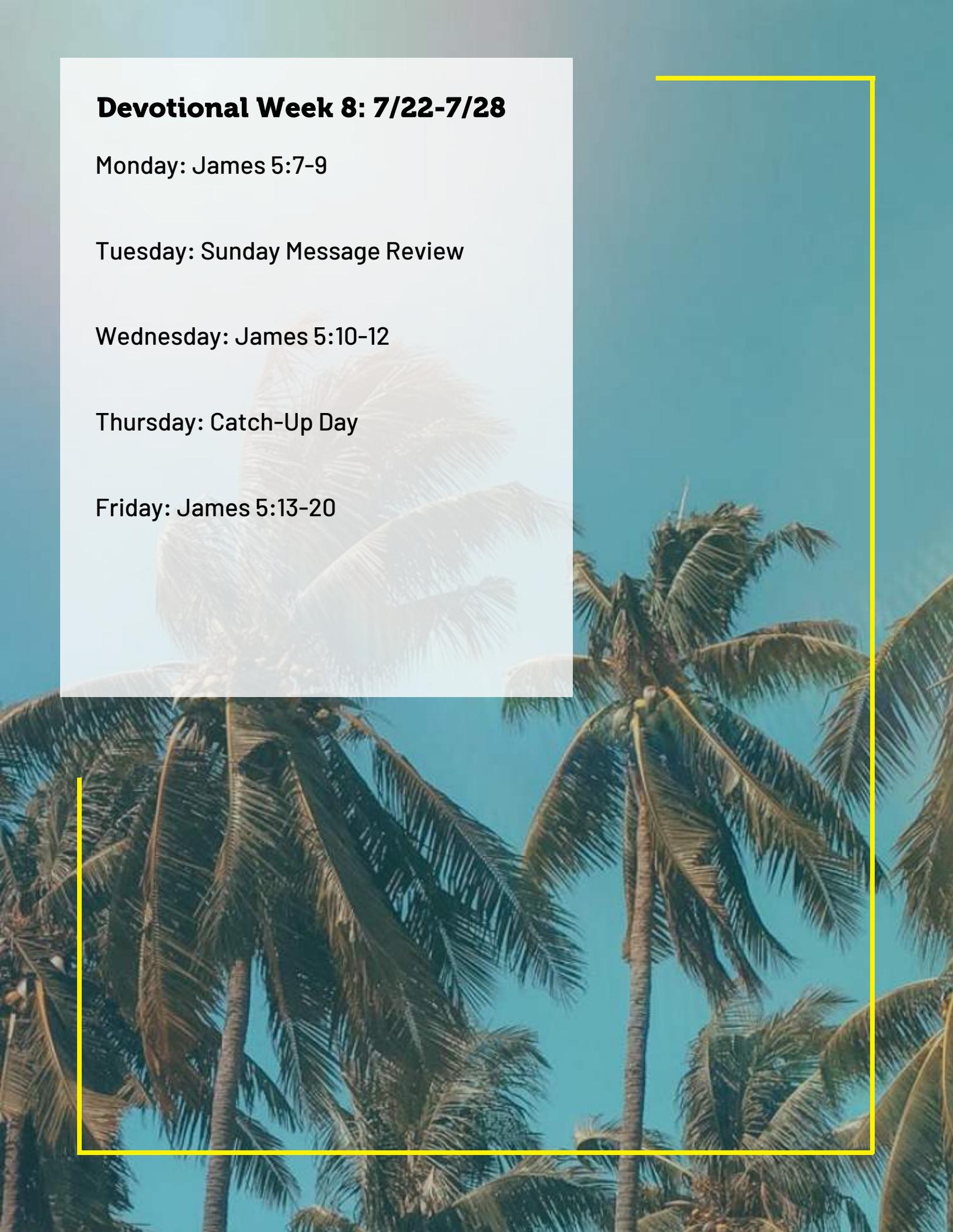
Monday: James 5:7-9

Tuesday: Sunday Message Review

Wednesday: James 5:10-12

Thursday: Catch-Up Day

Friday: James 5:13-20



## **Patience in Suffering**

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

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## **Patience in Suffering**

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**

## **The Prayer of Faith**

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

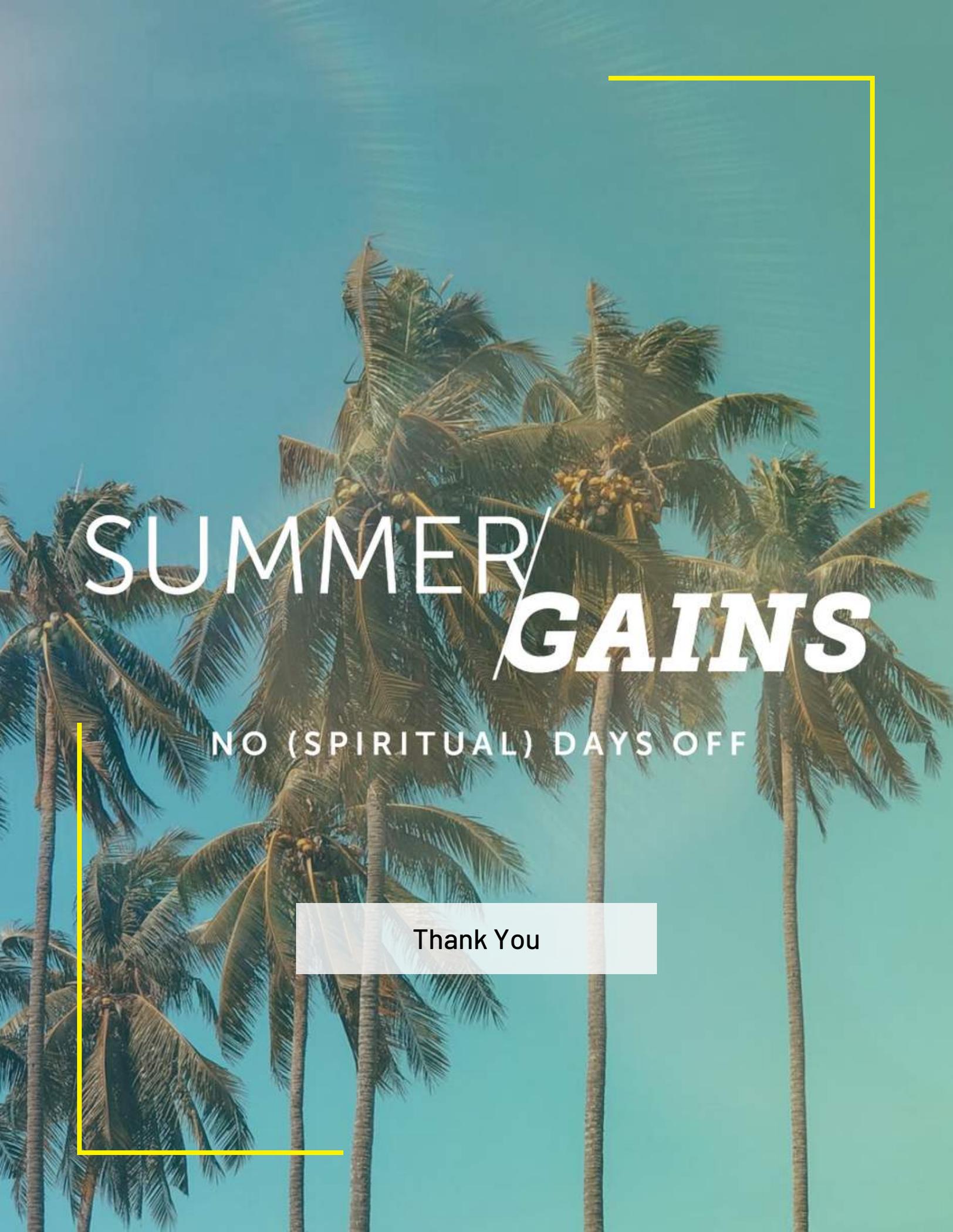
17 Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18 Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

19 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

**What verse(s) caught my attention?**

**What are my observations about this verse(s)?**

**How can I start applying what I've learned to my life?**



# SUMMER/ ***GAINS***

NO (SPIRITUAL) DAYS OFF

Thank You