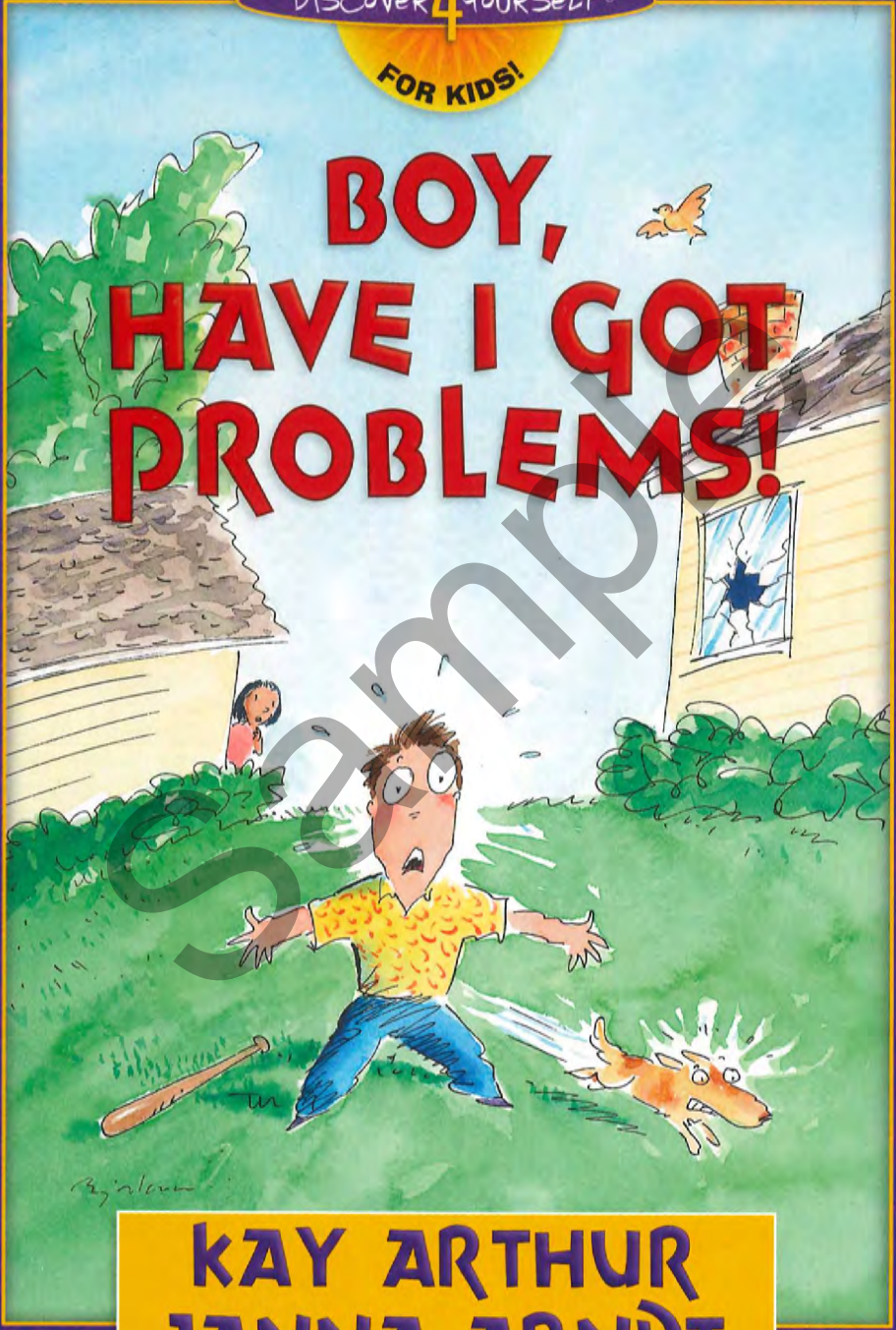


**JAMES**

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDIES  
**DISCOVER 4 YOURSELF**  
FOR KIDS!



**KAY ARTHUR  
JANNA ARNDT**

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**BOY,  
HAVE I GOT  
PROBLEMS!**

**KAY ARTHUR  
JANNA ARNDT**



**HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS**  
EUGENE, OREGON

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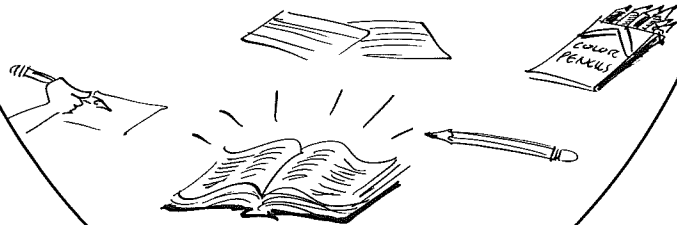
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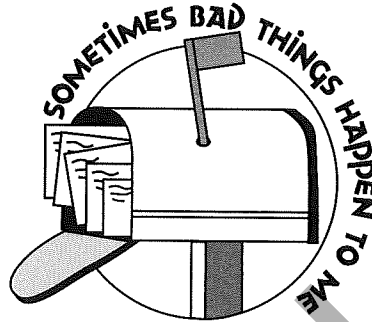
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## JAMES 1:1-11

Okay, we're ready for our first letter. This one is from a guy named Confused. Let's see what he has to say.

Dear Ellie,

I wanted to try out for the basketball team next week, but yesterday at practice I fell and broke my leg. Now there is no way I can make the team. I am so disappointed. I have been praying for this chance for a year. Why would God let this happen to me? I try to obey His word.

Signed,

Confused



Wow! Confused seems to need your help. What an awful thing to break your leg during basketball practice after all that hard work! No wonder he is confused and wondering why God would let this happen to him.

We need to get an answer to him right away—God’s answer, not ours. So let’s turn to James and begin. James is a letter that God had written and included in His book, the Bible, to help people with their problems.

But before we begin, first things first. We need to pray. Bible study should always begin with prayer. We need God’s help not only to understand His Word, but also to help other people answer their questions in a way that’s pleasing to God. Take a moment to pray, and then we’re ready to take our first look at James.



## **OH, THOSE TRIALS**

Turn to James 1 on page 129. The pages with the Bible text on them are called Observation Worksheets. We will use them to do our Bible study.

Today, when we read a letter we don’t usually know who

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the writer is until we see the signature at the end. In Bible times, the writer of the letter identified himself immediately. Instead of waiting till the end, the letter was signed at the beginning!

Watch! Read James 1, verse 1, and see who wrote this letter and what he tells us about himself.

James 1:1 WHO wrote this book?

\_\_\_\_\_

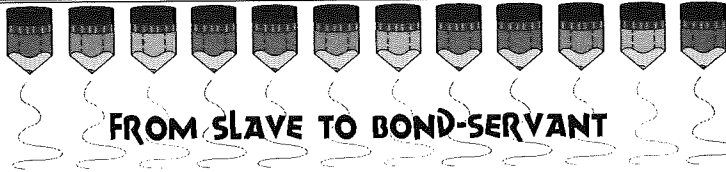
HOW does he describe himself?

He is a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

WHAT does it mean to be a bond-servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_





In Old Testament times, a slave that had served his time under Jewish law would be set free. That slave could go to his master and say, "I know I have served my time and that you have to release me according to the law, but living in your house is better than living on my own. I would rather be your slave than be set free."

The master would take the slave and place the slave's earlobe against the doorpost and drive an awl through it. An awl was a thick metal spike with a sharp-pointed end. When the master pulled out the awl, there was a hole that everyone could see. It was too big for an earring! When everyone saw this hole they would know that this slave had an awesome master because this slave had chosen to stay with his master and serve him rather than being set free! This made the slave a bond-servant for the rest of his life.

To be a bond-servant means to be a love slave for life.

A bond-servant is a person who has chosen to be a slave after he has been given his freedom.

James is saying that he is God's bond-servant.

He has totally surrendered his life to serve God and Jesus.

Now, let's see. To WHOM is James writing?

James 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE are the twelve tribes?

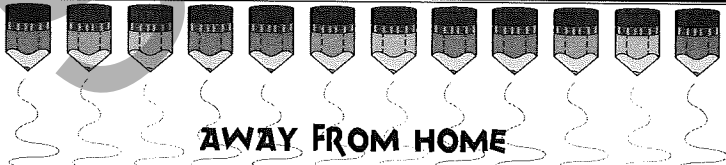
James 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_



The WHERE question you just answered gives us a chance to talk about something important called *context*. When you study the Bible, it's very important to understand the context of a passage. Context is a setting in which something is told or found. For example, where would you find a bed in your house? In the kitchen? No, of course not! You would find a bed in a bedroom. A bedroom is the context for a bed. When you look at context in the Bible, you look at the verses surrounding the passage you're studying. You also think about where the passage fits in the big picture of the whole Bible. Context includes:

- the place where something happens
- the time an event occurs (you sleep in a bed at night and cook meals in the kitchen during the day)
- the customs of the group of people involved
- the time in history an event occurred

Sometimes you can discover all these things from just the verses you're studying. Sometimes you have to study other passages of Scripture. It's always important to be on the lookout for context because it helps you discover what the Bible is saying.



**AWAY FROM HOME**

The twelve tribes are the Jews.  
Being dispersed abroad means the Jews who believed in Jesus were living in foreign countries. The Jews were living someplace other than Israel—the land that God had given them for their permanent home!  
These Jews had been scattered to other countries because of the difficult times for people who believed in Jesus.

## The Best Inductive Studies for Kids

*Bible study is serious fun! The Discover 4 Yourself® Inductive Bible Studies for Kids help you find out for yourself what the Bible is all about—and give you exciting ways to do it! These hands-on books help teach the basic skills of Bible study for a lifetime of discovering God’s Word.*

### HELP! WE’VE GOT A PROBLEM!

**T**ons of kids write in to Ellie, our newspaper columnist, asking her advice. And even more boys and girls get help by reading Ellie’s column. So when Ellie’s out sick—like she is now—well, boy, do we need help!



We hear that you have just what it takes to fill Ellie’s shoes. Don’t worry if you’ve never done this before—you’ll have all the help you need. You’ll find answers to everyone’s problems in the Bible. Nothing’s too big for God!

Did we mention the added bonus you get for taking on this assignment? You’ll get to discover for yourself what the Bible, especially the book of James, says about getting help with your own problems. Now, that’s a bonus worth your while.



**Kay Arthur** is the founder of Precept Ministries, a ministry that teaches people how to study the Bible. She is the author of many bestselling books, including *How to Study Your Bible*; *Lord, Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days*; and other titles in the Discover 4 Yourself® Inductive Bible Studies for Kids series.



**Janna Arndt** is a Precept leader who speaks at seminars, sharing ideas for using the Discover 4 Yourself® Inductive Bible Studies for Kids in Sunday school classes. She has two sons, Chase and Brent, and her heart is for children to know and love God’s Word.

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