



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: JAMES 1:19-27 – “The Word in Real Life”

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

How have you experienced the frustration of thinking you had an agreement with someone (employee, kids, friend, spouse, co-worker) and found out they had ignored or completely forgotten what you had both said was important? What did you do about it? Why was it frustrating?

QUICK REACTIONS

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

In what important ways does the story of Snow White and God’s Word being a mirror reflect how we respond to God?

Dave mentioned that there are two ways we often choose to respond to God’s word:

1. Listen only to the parts that affirm us, our own “beauty”, or confirm our own biases.
2. Walk away without doing what it says.

Which one characterizes you most, why?

Are there other ways we respond to the mirror of God’s word? (ie... We look into it and see things that aren’t there?)

3. James connects our anger, our tongues, listening, filth, evil, and not caring for vulnerable orphans and widows as ways we fail to look into God’s word and not live them out. How do you see these types of things happening around us and in us?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [James 1:19-27]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

What instruction did James give about the relationship between speaking, listening, and anger? (1:19)

What is the relationship between anger and righteous living? (1:20)

What things crowd out the life of Christ growing in us? (1:21)

What is the relationship between listening to God’s Word and doing it? (1:22)

What analogy did James use to describe a person who does not do what the Bible says? (1:23-24)

What promise did James give to the person who studies God’s Word and practices it? (1:25)

What does James say is the value of listening, looking carefully and not forgetting God’s message? (1:25)

How is a person's speech related to the credibility of his or her faith? (1:26)

What did James describe as pure and genuine religion? (1:27)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What makes it hard for us to be good listeners? What is the result of not listening well?

How can being quick to speak and quick to anger get you into trouble?

What attitudes and habits can inhibit our growth as disciples of Christ?

What makes it hard for us to practice what we observe, see in God's word?

How does our speech reflect our relationship with God?

How have you experienced freedom by doing the Word of God?

Who may be "widow and orphans" in your life – ie those who are in distress and vulnerable?

In what ways can the world, filth, evil crowd out God from taking root in our life?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?