



## Session 3 - James 1:19-27

### Welcome!

Reflect on your week with your group. Did you make space for God this week?

### Intro question

Share with your group a commercial on TV, radio, or the internet that you really like. Describe it. Why do you like it? Have you actually bought the product the commercial is advertising? Why? or Why Not?

### Keys To A Great Experience

Show up  
Join in  
Be real  
Be sensitive  
Be Confidential

### Main Point This Session

It is not enough just to know what God's word says. We must not only KNOW what God's word says, but also DO what God's word says. Session 3 challenges us to put God's word into action.

### Engaging God's Word

Open your Bible to James 1:19-27. Ask someone who is willing to read this passage to your group. Follow along in your own Bible.

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. Verses 19-20

- What three things are we to take note of?
- When was the last time you were quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry?
- Have you done just the opposite?
- Has someone done this to you?
- What does James say about anger? (v. 20)
- Is there such a thing as righteous indignation?
- Do you think that sometimes God wants us to get angry about certain things?
- Then what do you do about verse 20?

#### 2. Verses 22-24

- How does merely listening to God's word lead to self-deception? (1:22)
- Would you say you are a doer of God's word or just a

- What is the whole mirror metaphor about? (1:23-24)
- What is the point of a mirror?
- Why would he use this metaphor?
- Do you think it's really worthless to hear God's Word without doing it?
- Why or why not?

### 3. According to James 1:25-27

- The main focus of these passages is on "religion". How would you define religion?
- Do you think of religion as a good thing or not?
- How do you think people see the word "religion" in our society today?
- Do you think James is using the word religion in a positive way or a negative way?
  - Why or why not?
- There are three specific actions he includes in his definition. What are they?
  - Why do you think he mentions these three?

## Applying God's Word

- What situations cause you to get angry?
- In such situations, how could you be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry?
- There are probably some parts of the Christian religion that you do pretty well. But it needs to be more than just a set of rules and rituals. It is God's powerful Word at work within us. So what is the next step for you?
- What issue is James calling you to confront in you so you can have more of a relationship with Him?

## Prayer Time

Think of this as a time for people to really share and receive prayer for what is going on in their lives. Discourage people from primarily sharing prayer requests for other people (e.g. "please pray for my grandmother's uncle"). Such prayer requests lead to superficiality. Instead, encourage individuals to share prayer requests related to their own concerns, struggles, and needs.

## **Live It Out**

1. Pray and invite someone to join you for our Bible study on James next week.
2. Do you need to develop the ability to be “quick to hear, slow to speak”? Is there a particular person in your life with whom you should do more listening? Work on this. You might even think of some questions to ask in your next conversation. Focus on them, not on your own responses.
3. Pray specifically about two things this week. (1) Your anger. (Even if you’re not hot-tempered, do you “stuff” your anger and let it turn into bitterness?) (2) Soul pollution. Ask God to show you ways you might be getting “polluted” by the world.
4. “Widows and Orphans.” In many parts of Scripture—and here in James—we are urged to care for the neediest members of society. In your area, who are these people, and how can you help? It’s possible they are, literally, widows and orphans, having suffered the loss of a family member. But also consider the homeless, the hospitalized, retirees, special-needs children and adults, the unemployed, immigrants, prisoners, etc.

## **Notes**

## **Intentional Time With God**

### ***In Your Day...In Your Heart***

Spend a few minutes each day reviewing and reflecting on our session, the verses from the book of James, and your group discussion. Also, reflect on the verses below and their application to your life. Make sure you take a few moments to pray about your relationship with God, others (leaders, family, friends, those in your group) and spend a few moments just being silent and listening to God.

**Day 1** – Read James 1:19-27 and reflect on what you’ve learned. Let God prompt your heart as you read, reflect, and pray.

**Day 2** – Psalm 119:11

**Day 3** – Matthew 15:8–9

**Day 4** – Matthew 21:28–32

**Day 5** – Matthew 23:1–3

**Day 6** – Romans 2:13

**Day 7** – Matthew 7:24–27