



JAMES 1:19-25

HEARING, RECEIVING, DOING

BEGIN BY READING JAMES 1:19-25 TOGETHER:

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. **21** Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. **24** For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. **25** But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

NOTE: *After you read the passage together, pray, and then allow for a few minutes of silence so that you and your students can read over the passage again and start to think about it. This may feel awkward at first, but it's vital to allow for some reflection time before diving into the questions.*

When you're ready, begin the discussion by going through the following questions:

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

1. What key ideas did James talk about in 1:12-19a?

NOTE: *This is an opportunity to briefly review the ideas you discussed last week in James 1:12-19A.*

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

NOTE: *As you go through these questions, give your students time and silence to really look at the text to see what God is revealing to them personally. Be patient with them as they seek to flesh out what they are seeing in God's Word.*

- 1. What are some metaphors or images that strike you as you read this passage?**
- 2. What is something that encourages you as you read this passage?**
- 3. What is something that challenges you as you read this passage?**

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

NOTE: *In this section James uses vivid imagery and striking commands to explain the importance of hearing, receiving, and doing the Word of God. Truly hearing and receiving the Word of God will lead to transformed lives as we come to trust in Christ as He is revealed to us in Scripture. James notes that this transformation includes becoming people who listen well, avoid hasty speech and unrighteous anger, and turn away from sin as we receive God's Word. The Christian life is one not just of hearing and understanding God's Word, but also being transformed by God's Word.*

Use the following questions to help students unpack these ideas:

- 1. What does this passage say about *hearing* God's Word?**
- 2. What does this passage say about *receiving* God's Word?**
- 3. What does this passage say about *doing* God's Word?**

CHRIST CONNECTION

NOTE: *As we seek to put God's Word into practice we will quickly run into the reality that we often fail to live up to the standards of God's Word. Attempting to "do" God's Word in our own power will lead only to failure and discouragement.*

As we read James's call to hear, receive, and do God's Word, it's essential that we admit our own inability to do this on our own, and then look to the One who Himself is the very Word of God: Jesus.

Jesus is the only person who ever truly heard, received, and obeyed God's Word perfectly. He lived a life of perfect righteousness, and He gives that righteousness to anyone who trusts in Him. In Christ we are forgiven for our sins and covered over with his perfect obedience. This then allows us to have a relationship with God as we stand before Him in Christ's righteousness, not our own. This frees us to truly put God's Word into practice, not in an effort to earn something from God, but as a joyful response to how in Christ He has given us grace and righteousness that we don't deserve.