

HOME GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Series : James / Sermon 4 / James 1:19-27

OPENING QUESTION

Whether you heard the sermon this morning or not, What does it look like to do God's work?

Scripture

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.

Questions

Do you listen better than you talk?

What do we communicate to other people when we don't listen well?

What is one thing people do that really pushes your button?

Do you make "spiritual" excuses to justify anger?

How might following the three steps (slow to speak, swift to hear, slow to anger) that James laid out put us in a better position to receive truth from God?

Scripture

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.

Questions

What do you spend more time on—your spiritual growth or active ministry?

In what area of your life could you do a better job applying God's Word rather than just listening to it?

What did James mean when he said we deceive ourselves, and forget who we are? (see v. 22)

Scripture

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Questions

What three actions does James identify as evidence of genuine religion in verses 26-27?

Why is it such a struggle for us to look beyond ourselves to help people?

Is James saying we are Christians if we help the orphans, widows, and live a good life?

How can we as a small group help hurting people see Jesus in their everyday lives?