

WOMEN OF GRACE

Lesson 2 | James 1:19-27

“In this passage, James presents another test of true believers. The first two tests centered around our response to trials and to temptation. The third test is our response to the truth revealed in the Word of God. One of the most reliable evidences of genuine salvation is a hunger for the Word of God. (Psalm 42:1)... When the true disciple hears God’s Word, there is an affection for its truth and a desire in his heart to obey it.” – John MacArthur, James: Guidelines for a Happy Christian Life, pp. 19–20

MEMORIZATION VERSE

James 1:3

...knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

DAY 1 | The Believer’s Response to the Word, Part 1 | Read James 1:19-26

1. What encouraged or convicted you from last week’s lesson?
2. In James 1:19, what is commanded? How does this command relate to verses 18 and 21?
 - a. Why are these commands important for all believers? Why are they important in your life?

- b. What might be the result of reading the Bible regularly but never putting its truths into practice?

3. How do the following verses increase your understanding of what it means to listen to the Word?
 - a. Psalm 1:2
 - b. John 8:31

 - c. Mark 4:24
 - d. John 14:21-24

4. Hearing the Word means being attentive to it. Take time to do an inventory of your own attentiveness to Scripture. Do you prioritize the reading of the Word? Do you take practical steps to obey the Word? Do you truly delight in the Word and meditate on it? Write down some practical ways that you can grow in your attentiveness and commitment to Scripture.

DAY 2 | The Believer's Response to the Word, Part 2 | Read James 1:19-26

*“In this context James seems to be speaking particularly at the truth in the Word that displeases, that confronts sin or conflicts with a cherished personal belief or standard of behavior.” – John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, James*, p. 72*

1. In verse 19, what three commands did James give to believers?

- a. What would be the result of slowness to hear, quickness to speak, and quickness to anger?

 - b. Why are believers to be slow to speak? Find one or two other Scripture references that support this text.

2. According to verse 21, what are believers to remove from their lives? How does this relate to receiving the Word?
 - a. Using a dictionary, define the words “humility” and “meekness” or “gentleness.” How do these attributes help believers receive the Word?

 - b. How can you cultivate a tender heart that desires to obey Scripture?

3. Take time to reflect on your response to biblical teaching. From this passage, summarize what you need to do to be a biblical hearer of the Word.

DAY 3 | Be Hearers and Doers of the Word | Read James 1:22-26

1. In James 1:22, what command is given to believers? How are we deceived when we fail to heed this command?
 - a. What do you think it means to be a hearer of the Word only?

2. In verses 23–24, what imagery did James use to describe those who are hearers only?
 - a. What are characteristics of someone who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what he looks like?

3. In verse 25, how did James describe those who are doers of the Word?
 - a. What is the perfect law? How do we look at it intently?

- b. What does it mean to abide by the Word? Give two additional Scripture references to support your answer.

DAY 4 | True Religion | Read James 1:26, 27

*“Generally, the neediest people in the early church were orphans and widows. There were no life insurance or welfare programs to support them. Jobs for either group were scarce, and if they had no close kin, or at least none who would help them, they were in desperate straits.” – John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, James*, p. 89*

1. What exposes the true state of our religion? How do Matthew 12:34 and 37, and 15:18 expound this truth?
2. According to Matthew 25:35–46, what is the reward for believers who practice true religion?
3. Who are the neediest people in our society? Who are the neediest types of people you know? How can you show them the “pure and undefiled” religion mentioned in this verse? How does the command in this verse differ from the current social justice movement?
4. Find three other verses that teach how we should treat widows and orphans.

- a. What practical ways can you meet the needs of widows and orphans?
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5. From verse 27, what do you think it means to “keep oneself unstained by the world?”
 - a. Write down one or two areas where the world is influencing your thinking or behavior, and then one or two specific, practical steps you can take to minimize that influence and grow in godly thinking and behavior.

DAY 5 | Reflections on James 1 | Read Revelation 22:6-21

“To escape the error of salvation by works we have fallen into the opposite error of salvation without obedience. In our eagerness to get rid of the legalistic doctrine of works we have thrown out the baby with the bath and gotten rid of obedience as well.” – A.W. Tozer

1. Choose one word to summarize the attitude believers are to have toward the teaching of the Word. Write a one sentence summary of your attitude toward the teaching of the Word.

2. What stood out to you most in James 1, and why?

3. Is it your aim to please Christ? What are some things you can and should be doing, or not doing, in light of the doctrine of eternal rewards?

4. What behaviors indicate saving faith and what behaviors indicate a lack of saving faith?
5. How did James 1 help you understand the relationship between saving faith and works?
6. Take time to reflect on what you have learned this week and ask the Lord to help you live in a way that is consistent with your faith.