



Main Passage: James 1:19-25

Theological Theme

God's Word is full of information that we need to know, but unless we are being transformed by it we are missing the point. We are to receive the Word and then apply it to our lives as doers of the Word.

Introduction

- ? How do you feel when you know the person you're talking to is not paying attention?
- ? How do you know if someone is really hearing you when you talk or give instructions?

1. Receive the Word (James 1:19-21)

Time studying the Bible is valuable for all believers. It is the best way to know God better because it is His written Word to us. There is no flaw in it and, as we have studied already, it is living, active, and applicable for daily living.

- ? What kinds of things make it difficult to hear God's voice?
- ? How can hearing from God first change the way we hear and listen to others?
- ? Application: What needs to change for you to hear and receive God's Word most effectively?

2. Be Hearers and Doers (James 1:22-25)

Once God's Word is implanted in us, our faith in Christ should move us to action. It is not just a theory or head knowledge that we seek. James made it clear that real faith will be followed by action.

- ? How do we deceive ourselves if we hear the Word but don't obey it?
- ? How would you explain the mirror analogy James used? How do we do this when we only hear God's Word but don't respond in obedience?
- ? Application: What do you need to be more intentional about so that you are not just hearing the Word of God but also doing it?

3. Be Transformed (Romans 12:1-2)

Paul made it clear in Romans that living the Christian life is more than just knowing more. He summed it up with the word transformation. James wrote that hearing and doing go together. When both of those happen, you begin to see you are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

- ❓ How do you see that hearing and doing God's Word brings transformation? How does Romans 12:1-2 help us understand this process?
- ❓ What are some of the mercies you have personally received from God?
- ❓ Application: What is the pattern of your life—conforming or transforming? What needs to change based on the passages we've studied today?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).