



Week 3 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 1:19-27 ESV

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** This week’s passage challenges a common assumption: that hearing God’s Word is enough. James makes it clear that real faith is not passive—it is intentional, active, and visible in both compassion and holiness. This week’s discussion invites us to examine whether our faith is shaping how we listen, speak, respond, and live. Encourage honesty and reflection. The goal isn’t behavior management—it’s transformation through the implanted Word.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to listen to and actually apply good advice?
- We’ll see James teach this in a minute, but for now, which of these is the hardest for you personally? And why?
 - Being quick to listen
 - Being slow to speak
 - Being slow to anger

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 1:19-27

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?

DIG DEEPER:

- James says we can deceive ourselves by hearing the Word but not doing it. Why do you think that’s such an easy trap to fall into?
- Verse 21 talks about “receiving with meekness the implanted word.”
What do you think it means to *receive* God’s Word rather than just hear it?

Leader Note: James isn’t describing fake Christians vs. real Christians in a harsh way—he’s warning sincere believers not to settle for surface-level faith.

- Where do you see the difference between “real faith” and “religious routine” in everyday life?
- In the sermon, Clay said: Real faith does not happen by accident. What are some ways and/or reasons people drift into passive faith instead of intentional faith?

APPLY

- Verse 21 says to “put away” sin and “receive” the Word. What is one distraction, habit, or attitude that makes it harder for you to grow spiritually right now?
- What helps you stay rooted in Scripture during a normal week—not just on Sundays?
- James compares hearing without doing to looking in a mirror and walking away unchanged. When was the last time Scripture clearly challenged you to change something? What happened next?
- What’s one step of obedience you already know God is inviting you to take?

RESPOND

James ends this section with a clear call: don’t just hear—live it.

Invite everyone to choose **one intentional step** this week:

- Practice being quick to listen in one difficult conversation
- Spend time daily reading James alongside the church
- Encourage someone instead of criticizing
- Meet a practical need for someone overlooked or hurting
- Remove one habit that keeps your heart distracted from God

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Quick to Listen:** For hearts that are quick to listen to God
- **Courage:** Ask for the courage to obey what Scripture reveals
- **Compassion:** Towards those in need
- **Faith:** For lives that reflect authentic faith and trust in God.

CLOSING

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week’s passage is James 2:1-13 ESV