

James: Growing Up in Christ

Week Two: James 1:19-27

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. When do your trials get the best of you? Talk about a time when anxiety, stress or anger ate away at your ability to listen to and love God and others.
2. Is it possible to be “quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” in the midst of trials? If so, how so? Where could such power come from?
3. What’s the difference between meekness and weakness? Talk about some real life examples of meekness. Is your power and strength under God’s control?
4. In verse 21, James challenges us to “get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent...” When you are experiencing trials in your life—what do you tend to pray for? Deliverance from the trial, or deliverance from sin? What do you hate more—suffering or unrighteousness? How can we continue to pursue holiness when we’re suffering?
5. Why do you think there’s such a gap between what you *know* about God and the Scriptures and what you *do* about that knowledge? (Don’t answer this question for anyone else but yourself—not even people in general)
6. How is the Word of God like a mirror for our souls? Talk about a time when God’s Word helped you see a defect in your spiritual appearance. What do you do after you saw it?
7. How does submitting to obeying God’s law lead us into freedom?
8. What disciplines do you have in your life that help you to understand and apply God’s Word?
9. Verse 26 has some hard words in it. James says that if we say we’re religious but we don’t control our tongues, our religion is fake—just a mask that we wear. Is James overstating things? What do you think he’s getting at? What could a friend or neighbor conclude about your faith, your relationship with Jesus, by how you use your tongue?
10. According to verse 27, what does pure religion look like? How do you look in the mirror of verse 27? What needs to change?
11. Does anything else in this passage trouble you, bother you, confuse you, convict you or surprise you?
12. What’s one thing you can do this week to apply this passage *specifically* to your life?