Are We People of the Word?

Conviction Without Contempt · Week Two
Following Jesus When We Disagree

Study and discussion guide | James 1:19-27

Begin by reading **James 1:18-27** aloud. Keep your Bible open and point to the words that shape your answers. For one conversation, choose a couple of questions from each section and end with one step to take this week. On your own, you can work through one section a day.

1. What are we receiving?

Reread James 1:18-21.

1. What has God already done for his people in verse 18, and what did he use to do it? How does starting there shape the way you hear the instructions that follow?
2. What are we to be quick to do in verse 19? What two things are we to be slow to do? What reason does verse 20 give for being slow to anger?
3. In verse 21, what are we to put away, and what are we to receive? Look back at verse 18 and ahead to verse 22. What might we miss if we read “quick to hear” only as advice for conversations? What things that are opposed to God’s word are we most tempted to receive?
4. Think of a time when something you read in Scripture made you want to explain why it didn’t apply to you. What would it have looked like to receive it “with meekness,” ready to be taught?

2. What are we doing?

Reread James 1:22-25.

5. Trace what the person at the mirror does in verses 23-24. What does the person in verse 25 do differently? Where does James say the blessing comes?
6. Verse 22 says a hearer can deceive themselves. What might we mistake for obedience when we read Scripture, talk about it, or pass it along to somebody else?
7. James calls it “the law of liberty” in verse 25. Read James 2:8-13. What does speaking and acting under that law look like there? What kind of freedom might come from treating someone with the mercy James describes?
8. What’s one thing from Scripture you understand well enough to do but have been putting off? What’s a first step you could take?

With younger kids, try acting out both responses to the mirror. What might someone see and walk away from? What could they do after seeing it?

3. Who are we loving?

Reread James 1:26-27.

9. What does the person in verse 26 think about their devotion to God? What does James look at to test it? What might a bridled tongue sound like when you still need to say something hard?
10. Whom does James name in verse 27, and what are we called to do for them? Read James 2:15-16. How does that example help explain what it means to visit someone “in their affliction”?
11. Verse 27 also says to keep ourselves unstained from the world. Read James 2:1-4. What does the way people are seated reveal about what that group values? Where might those same values shape whose needs we notice?
12. Who in your life could use some care this week? What could you ask them to find out what would actually help?

Go a little deeper: Read James 3:17-18 alongside James 1:20. What connection does James make between wisdom, peace, and righteousness? Choose one quality of wisdom in 3:17. How might it change the way you respond in a disagreement you’re facing?

This week: Finish this sentence: “Because of what I heard in James, this week I will _____ by _____.” Choose something you can actually do. If you’re studying with others, share the step you’d like someone to ask you about next time.

Close in prayer: Thank God for giving us life through his word. Ask him for help with the specific thing you heard and the person you hope to love well this week.