# Are We People of the Word?

**Conviction Without Contempt · Week Two**
*Following Jesus When We Disagree*

**Main text:** James 1:19-27 (read with verse 18).

**Main idea:** The Father gives us life through his word. James shows us how to live in response to that gift.

## 1. What are we receiving? · James 1:19-21

- Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. James asks whether we're ready to hear God. Our anger won't produce the righteous life God wants.
- Put away what God calls evil and receive the implanted word with meekness. Come ready to be taught and corrected.

**I can be very upset about sin and very stubborn about my own.**

## 2. What are we doing? · James 1:22-25

- Hearing without doing is like looking in a mirror, walking away, and forgetting what you saw.
- The doer looks into the law of liberty, stays with it, and acts. The blessing is in the doing.

**The word we're quick to defend must be the word we're willing to obey.**

## 3. Who are we loving? · James 1:26-27

- James calls our devotion empty when we refuse to rein in our words.
- Pure devotion means showing up for widows and orphans in their distress and keeping ourselves unstained by the world.

**Defending the Bible cannot be our excuse for neglecting the people it tells us to love.**

*For later study: James 2:1-4 (favoritism); 2:14-17 (practical care); 3:17-18 (wisdom and peacemaking).*