

James Small Group Guide 2

Expository Listening James 1:19–25 (ESV)

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

I. We Receive the Word Humbly v.19-21

II. We Remember the Word Constantly v.22-25

III. We Obey the Word Wholeheartedly v.22

Question for Further Application:

What role should God's Word play in our pursuit of Christlikeness?

Why do you think so many professing Christians struggle to find time for God's Word?

Is it a problem of discipline or desire? Or both?

What does it say about our hearts that we often find it difficult to listen instead of expressing our opinion?

How does a heart bent on sin affect the way we receive God's Word?

How have you seen this play out in your own life?

Explain this statement: the Word that requires obedience empowers obedience. Outside of corporate worship, how does Scripture influence the way you think and live? What are some specific ways you could grow in this area?

Why is it deceptive to hear God's Word and not obey it?

List some areas of your life where you've said you're willing to obey, but you're not actively obeying. How will you move forward in these areas?

How is James's call for obedience different from an attempt to earn a right standing before God—that is, works-righteousness?