

# James 1:19-27

## How To Be Blessed By The Bible!

### Life Group Study Guide

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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,  
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

#### Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?  
*(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a "low" that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.)*

#### Memory Verse:

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

*James 1:22*

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

#### Grow:

- Read James 1:19-20
- Why does anger keep us from living the righteous life that God desires?
- Why is listening such an important skill for Christians? How can being quick to listen and slow to speak prevent our anger from erupting? How can uncontrolled anger affect our witness of Christ in our lives?
- Read James 1:21
- Why is it important for us as believers to rid ourselves of all moral filth and evil? What are some practical ways we can do this?
- James 1:19-21 shows us three attitudes that help to prepare our heart for a life of faith. What are those three attitudes? (*quick to listen/slow to speak, slow to become angry, get rid of moral filth*)
- Read James 1:22

- Is there a difference between knowing the right thing to do and actually doing the right thing? Why?
- Why would merely listening to the word of God deceive you? *(because you could believe that knowing what you are supposed to do, knowing the right answers, believing the right things was what actually saved you.)*
- Read James 1:23-25
- What is the perfect law? *(The moral and ethical teaching of Christianity, which is based on the OT moral law, as embodied in the Ten Commandments, but brought to completion/perfection by Jesus Christ.)*
- The main point here is that we do the right thing. Why will we be blessed *(verse 25)* by doing the right things? *(ultimately we are blessed because when we do the right thing we can allow the word of God/ the message of salvation that has been planted (verse 21) in us to grow and thrive.)*
- James 1: 26 shows us an example of someone who does not do what is right while verse 27 shows us an example of someone who does what is right. Read James 1:26-27.
- Why would a loose tongue *(verse 27)* make someone's religion worthless? Read Luke 6:45. *(religion would be worthless because a person's 'religion' has done nothing to change their heart. That which the word 'planted' in a person's heart (verse 21) has not been allowed to grow.)*
- Verse 27 does not give us an exhaustive list of what pure and faultless religion would include but instead gives us a taste of what pure and faultless religion looks like. What do widows and orphans have in common? *(they are at the mercy of those around them.)* Why would God have us help widows and orphans? *(because He cares about the helpless.)* What is the principle of religion James desires for us to understand from verse 27? *(pure and faultless religion helps our heart to imitate the heart of God...)* What would be some other things pure and faultless religion might include as it is described in this verse?

#### Serve:

- James exhorts us to receive God's Word, reflect on God's Word, and respond to God's Word in order to be blessed by it. Share one thing that is going right in this area of your life and one way you could improve.
- What is one thing you could do this week to minister to the needs of someone around you which would begin to put into practice what you have heard in God's word?
- **If your group did not connect into spiritual partners in the last meeting then use the following to connect your group into spiritual partners.**
  - Temptations can easily lure the hearts of God's servants. A spiritual partner is a great way to keep ourselves on track and provide opportunity to grow together. Select a same sex partner from within the group who will be your spiritual partner for the remainder of our study through James.

**Share:**

- If you did not tell someone you are a Christian what would they notice that is different about you from what they see in others?
- As we attempt to share Christ at home, at work, in the community,, or even abroad, why is it important that our lives reflect Christ in practical ways? What are some of those ways that will speak louder than our words?

**Worship:**

- Pair up with your spiritual partner and take a few moments to pray for one another, asking God to show you one area of your life that needs to be changed by His Word.
- Come back together as a group and pray over the requests for members of your group.

**Preperation for Next Time:**

- Read James 2:1-13