

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

James 1:19-27

For Starting

- How do you use the information that you learnt in your favourite subject in school in your life today?
- Share one thing that has encouraged you in recent weeks.
- Picture yourself as a recipient of James' letter. What one thing would you hope this letter will explain or answer??
- Why do you think *listening* in churches is so difficult today?

For Reviewing

- What does James say should be done quickly and slowly (v.19)? What reason does he give (v.20)? Do you agree?
- What does James say should be done away with, and what should be accepted (v.21)? Why? (See v.21b)
- How should Christians respond to God's Word (v.22)?
- What image does James use to explain someone who doesn't take God's Word seriously (v.24)?
- What happens to someone who "looks intently" into God's Word (v.25)? How often should someone do this?
- How does James describe someone with an uncontrolled tongue (v.26)? What value is placed on their "religion"?
- Which TWO groups are identified as needing care (v.27)?

For Discussion

- In what way/s is God's Word a mirror?
- How can we prepare our hearts to receive God's Word?
- Quote: "*Words are no substitute for deeds of love.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why?
- What is pure religion (v.27)? Why must Christians be separated from or unstained by the world?
- How can we tame and discipline our tongues; to be 'broken' and harnessed to speak and share God's Word to others?
- You could end by reading together James 1:27

James 1:19-27 (NIVUK)

Listening and doing

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.