



Sermon Discussion Guide

Looking in the Mirror - Tim

3/20/22

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- We've been in James for three weeks now. What has God been speaking to your heart so far?
- What do you think it means to be spiritual/religious? (How would you define spirituality and religion?)

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- What instructions does James give in this passage?
- James compares "just listening" to the word and "listening and doing". What does he say about each?
- In verses 26-27, what does James say is the key characteristic of religious behavior?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- What can we learn about God's heart through James' instructions in this passage?
- How can reading scripture be like looking into a mirror? (Both positive and negative)
- Why do you think James is so passionate about religion being both listening and doing?
- How does living in our current world make it harder to both "listen and do"?



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Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- Reflect on how you see and interact with scripture. Do you just listen or listen and do?
 - How much do you allow scripture to shape your heart?
- Reflect on your own life: How often do you personally think about and care for the vulnerable in our world?
- How can we transform our hearts to be more aware and caring for the powerless in our world?
- Make a list of practical ways that you personally or your group can become a part of caring for the vulnerable?

Time of Prayer