

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

## citygroups

Fall 2021

Week of Nov 7

Studies in James

### DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): James 1:21-25

Supporting Texts: James 1:18-20, Romans 10:17, John 1:1, Luke 11:28, Hebrews 4:12 James 1:26-27

**MAIN IDEA: As Christians we must live out our faith. We are called to be doers, not just hearers, of God's Word.**

James corrects and encourages believers to seek wisdom and pursue practical ways in which their faith is lived out. He shows that although justification comes only by God's grace through faith, genuine faith always results in good works.

### OBSERVE

One of the ways genuine faith is lived out is in our response to the Word of truth.

**What does it mean to "receive the implanted word"?** *Read James 1:21-25.*

**What attitude must we have in order to receive the Word of God?** *We must have humility (CSB) and meekness (ESV). We must have a posture that is willing to learn from instruction; and admit we lack wisdom and ability to live out our faith on our own.*

**Verse 21 starts with "Therefore" so we know that the verses before it are directly connected. Read verses 19 - 20. In 1:19, to what or whom should we be quick to listen?**

*We should be quick to listen to the instruction of his Word before we give our own direction or speak from our own wisdom.*

**According to verses 19-20 we should be slow to become angry because "Human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness". In light of this, what should we hold as most important in how we live our lives? God's righteousness is our aim, above personal advancement, our own will, or our own wisdom.**

### INTERPRET

In 1:18 James says that for those that God calls to repentance, he "gave us birth by the word of truth".

**What is "the word of truth"? What do the scriptures below say about God's word?**

Romans 10:17 – *the word is the gospel, the message of Christ*

John 1:1 – *the word is Jesus*

Luke 11:28 – *the word is to be obeyed and this obedience we are commanded to is for our good.*

Hebrews 4:12 – *the word is living and active, and it is for our protection.*

**What is James saying when he refers to "the law of liberty"? How does God's law give us freedom?**

*Jesus' perfect fulfillment of the law in the gospel gives us freedom from the penalty of sin and the power of sin in our lives. While we still have the presence of sin in our broken world and in our own hearts,*

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*through his law he gives us instruction on how to work against that as we strive to live lives that honor God out of gratitude for the freedom we have in him.*

### RESPOND

Justification (forgiveness of sin, and being declared righteous in the sight of God) comes only by God's grace through faith; but James makes it clear that true faith always results in good works. We are always changed by the grace and the word of truth that we have received.

**Why is it necessary for believers to not only hear God's word, but also obey it in their daily actions?**

**Why must we live out our faith?** *Our justification, is shown through our works to the world around us. It is evidence of the saving work that Christ has accomplished and the new life we have received. It invites others to hear the word of truth in the gospel and receive salvation through faith.*

### APPLY

In verses 26-27 James gives 3 practical examples of how genuine faith is lived out:

1. Mature and controlled speech
2. Help, care and concern for those who are vulnerable/in need.
3. Not being stained by the world

**What is one way you can live out your faith this week in the way that you speak?**

**What is one way you can live out your faith and demonstrate active concern for others this week?**

**What is one way you can live out your faith this week through pursuit of personal holiness?**