

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 31, 2011

Passage: James 1:19-21

Memory Passage: James 1:19-20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:19-21.** What specifically is James admonishing us to “be quick to hear?” What does it mean to “be quick” with regard to hearing? What are some of the benefits of being “quick to hear?”

(b) Why should we be “slow to speak?” What does not responding quickly give us the opportunity to do? What benefits are ours if we are “slow to speak” (see Prov. 10:19; 17:27-28 & Matt. 12:36-37 for some ideas)?

(c) Do you have difficulty listening to others? Do you usually find that you are the one speaking in your conversations rather than listening to others? When you meet someone new, do you come away from the first conversation not knowing anything about the new person because you did all of the talking? Do you often have difficulties/misunderstandings in your relationships? Take a moment to think about a typical conversation. Ask the Lord to reveal to you whether or not you need to begin listening more and speaking less. Then write these words on a note card or sticky note: “Listen more—speak less.” Then place this sticky note/card in a place where you will be reminded of this need (on the bathroom mirror or rearview mirror of your car so you see it every day; on your phone where you might do much talking; on your desk or computer screen at work, etc.)

(d) *Family:* Begin your lesson tonight by holding up a picture of something that will take more than one sentence to describe (a landscape, a bustling city street, it really doesn’t matter). Then ask your family, one-by-one, to describe what they see. After they say one sentence or so, you cut them off, talking about what *you* see, or misrepresenting something they say. Just act like a generally rude, talkative, know-it-all. Then move to the next person and do the same. Then ask, “How did you feel about our conversation?” Get them to tell you that you talked too much and did not listen to them. **Then Read James 1:19** and teach them what it means to be “quick to hear & slow to speak.” Equip your family to apply these verses by writing on your white board things they might do while they are waiting to speak (i.e. asking God for wisdom, thinking about what they will say before they speak, making sure they really listened and understood the other person, etc.).

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:19-21, Matt. 5:21-24 & Eph. 4:26-27.** What connection do you see between the three commands in v. 19? Is there a pattern or are they independent commands? Is anger prohibited in this verse? What is the difference between getting angry slowly and getting angry quickly?

(b) Do you struggle with anger? Do you find yourself losing your temper with others, or do you often “stew” over what others have done to you? Do you hold grudges & remember even the slightest offense for long periods of time? What does Jesus (Matt. 5) think of this anger? What are its consequences?

(c) To what does James refer with the phrase, “righteousness of God?” Why does man’s anger not produce this? What does your anger produce, both in the lives of others and your own life? What does Paul tell you to do about your anger in Eph. 4?

(d) *Family:* **Read James 1:19-20.** Remind your family of what you learned last night. Then let them know that, according to James, a human’s anger does not accomplish things that are in line with God’s righteous character, which means that it usually produces unrighteous results. **Then read Eph. 4:26-27** and help them understand how Paul says to deal with our anger and the dangers if we don’t deal with our anger in a righteous way. Use concrete examples to illustrate how this is done.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:19-21 & Col. 3:1-17.** To what specifically could James be referring when he writes “all filthiness & rampant wickedness?” How are these behaviors related to anger?

(b) As you review Col. 3:1-17 (we studied this passage last year), how does it help us understand what James is commanding in 1:21? On what basis do we “put off” sin in our lives?

(c) Is there “filthiness & rampant wickedness” or “unrighteous anger” in your life that you are ignoring? Is there any reason you are embracing this sin rather than “putting it off?” What will you do about them, right now, before answering the next question?

(d) *Family:* **Read Zech. 3:1-10.** We looked at this passage last September in our study of Colossians along with an activity that involved putting off dirty clothes. Review it with your family tonight, focusing on the act of cleansing that God does when He saves us, and the righteous life that follows this cleansing.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read James 1:19-21.** To what does the “implanted word” refer (remember the context)? How are we to “receive” something that is already “implanted?”

(b) What does it mean to be “meek?” Is someone who is “meek” lacking in strength? How do you cultivate meekness? What signs should you be on the lookout for that would reveal a growing lack of meekness?

(c) Since James is writing to believers, why does he say that the implanted word is “able to save your souls?” Do believers need to be saved? How does the context of James 1 help you understand what he means?

(d) *Family:* Tell a story about a man who goes scuba diving but does not put the mouthpiece in his mouth to access the air from his tank. Say that the man said to himself, “I am going to be fine under water! I have this tank of air strapped to my back!” Ask, “What will happen to this man if he persists in this line of thinking?” (He will die because he can’t breathe under water without oxygen) Then ask, “What do you mean? He has all the air he needs right there strapped to his back!” After you get them to explain that the air does not do any good strapped to his back if he does not partake of the air through the mouthpiece, **Read James 1:21b** (you can skip the filthiness & wickedness part and begin with “receive”). Explain that even though a person might be saved through the Word (James 1:18) and has the Word of God written on their hearts (Jer. 33:33), one is still in need of reading, listening to, and applying the Word of God. Since we are still fighting sin in this world, we need to receive the implanted Word, just like the diver must receive the air on his back, for us to grow in Christ-likeness.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Eph. 4:17-5:2.** Write down the names of everyone you can think of with whom you are currently angry, holding a grudge against, thinking about revenge or payback, or holding on to hurt feelings. Pray for God to grant you the ability to forgive and restore these relationships, and write down several concrete ways in which you will implement the commands in Eph. 4:17-5:2. Then put a note somewhere (along with your other sticky note from Monday) so you will remember to carry out these concrete plans for reconciliation.

(b) *Family:* Please forgive me for running out of time & creativity and not having a family lesson for this day ☹.

DATE: July 31, 2011

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Receiving the Implanted Word

In James 1:19-21 we are shown 3 requirements for receiving the implanted Word.