

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011

Passage: James 1:22-27

Memory Passage: James 1:27

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:22-27.** Take a moment to place these verses in the context of James 1: What connections do you see between these verses and the preceding verses? How do they connect/flow into the following section? How do vs. 22-25 relate to vs. 26-27? What themes do you find restated in these verses from earlier verses?

(b) How is being a hearer of the word but not a doer of the word a form of self-deception (cf. 1:16 & 26)? What does it mean to be a “doer of the word?” How would one’s life look if he/she were only a “hearer of the word?”

(c) Think back on the last month of your life. Have you been a doer of the word? If someone else would be able to watch a rerun of the last 30 days of your life with an evaluation form in their hand, pen at the ready to tally every instance of “hearing” and “doing” the word, which column would be greater? How many opportunities for “doing” would be left undone?

(d) *Family:* Make two columns on your white board: “Hear” & “Do.” Have your family recall every instance in which they heard the word during the last several weeks (family worship, corporate worship, Sunday school, Counterpoint Music Camp, Faithful Bible Investigators, personal Bible Reading, radio/CDs, etc) and write them under “Hear.” Then **Read James 1:22** and lead your family in a discussion about ways in which their “Hearing” should lead to “Doing” and list these on the board.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ez. 33:31-32, Matt. 7:24-27 & 1 John 3:18.** What do you learn about the talk & hearts of those who “hear” but will not “do” what they hear in Ez. 33:31? Why does this state of heart produce this kind of disobedience?

(b) What is the correlation between wisdom/foolishness and hearing/doing the word in Matt. 7:24-27? How is one’s life built on a surer foundation by both hearing & doing the word? Would your analysis of your life from Day 1 (c) lead you to call yourself wise or foolish? Upon what facts do you base your answer?

(c) How does one love in word or talk rather than deed & truth (1 John 3:18)? What is the connection between deed & truth when one exercises love?

(d) *Family:* **Read Matt. 7:24-27.** Have your families draw pictures of the two scenarios found in this parable. After they have drawn their pictures, have them explain to you why the foundation in one picture supports the house but the foundation in the other does not. Press them for details about the foundation if they can’t explain. Then reread the passage and teach it to your family, explaining how it is only the foolish who are not found “doing” the word, and that the one who both hears and does the word will live a life whose foundation is sure because they will reap the benefits of being transformed by the power of the word. This will lead to the ability to make wise decisions which will in turn avoid pain & suffering because of bad decisions, as well as one’s spiritual maturity because we will be more quickly conformed to the image & likeness of Christ.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:22-27.** What is the relationship between someone who is “a hearer of the word and not a doer” and the one who looks into the mirror and yet quickly forgets how his face looks? What truth is James conveying?

(b) What does James mean when he says the law is “perfect?” In what ways is it perfect and what does this have to do with his argument in these verses?

(c) Why does James also refer to the law as “the law of liberty?” In what ways does the law lead to liberty/freedom? Have you ever felt freedom and liberty through the law? How does one persevere when looking through this law of liberty and what is the reward for doing so? (See Ps. 119:41-48, Rom. 6:16, Gal 5:13-15, & 1 Tim. 1:8 for help in answering these questions.)

*Family:* **Read Ps. 119:41-48.** Explain these verses to your family, especially what it means to have “hope” in God’s “rules” (His word leads to salvation and sanctification), to “walk in a wide place” (which is free of the stumbling blocks of sin when we obey God’s word), to “love” & “find delight” in God’s commandments. Then reread v. 48 and teach your family how to meditate on God’s word using the memory verse for this week, James 1:27 (focus on each word individually, pondering its meaning in the verse and the context, and asking God to reveal application as you meditate & memorize).

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read James 1:22-27.** What does it mean for you to “bridle” your tongue? How is bridling the tongue the opposite of deceiving your heart (note the conjunction “but,” these two phrases are in opposition to each other in our text)?

(b) Why does *not bridling one's tongue* render one's religion as "worthless?" What does it look like for a person to "think he is religious?" Is there a danger in this, and if there is, what is it?

(c) Do you ever struggle to bridle your tongue? What circumstances usually surround this? Do you experience trials in this area that usually turn to temptations because your desire to control/express anger/be heard/control lure & entice you to sin? What should you do when these situations (trials) present themselves so that you act in light of your new birth and persevere unto life in these trials? Review James 1:12-18 as you answer these questions.

(d) Define the words "pure" and "undefiled." Why is it necessary for our religion to have these qualities? Why do you think James emphasizes God as "Father" in this verse (See Ps. 68:5, also Ps. 10:14-18)?

(e) *Family*: In preparation for this lesson: Fabricate a bridle & reins using twine/yarn/string for reins and a pen/pencil/tinker toy/kabob skewer for the bit (search Google images or video if you need some assistance). Then insert the "bit" into someone's mouth as you demonstrate how a horse would be controlled by its rider by use of the reins. Let everyone have a chance to wear the bridle. Then explain that the noun "bridle" can also be used as a verb to mean "to bring something under control." Then **Read James 1:26** and explain what it means to bridle one's tongue, and what the verse warns against if one does not bridle their tongue (we will return to the topic of the tongue for greater application later in James).

#### **DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

#### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read James 1:26-27**. What two requirements does James present for a religion that pleases God? Are these the only two requirements? What others might there be? Why does James mention only these two in this verse?

(b) To what does James refer when he uses the term "world" in v.27? How does one stay "unstained from it?" Does it require abstention, according to our context? Would one be proper in saying, "I will not have anything to do with the world because I need to stay unstained from it?" Why or why not?

(c) How often are you involved in visiting widows & orphans? Are these limited to believing widows & orphans? Think about people you know in your life, both inside and outside the church: What are some of their needs? How might you meet them? Since there are some needs of widows & orphans that you cannot meet by yourself, what are some ways The Bible Church could become involved in meeting these needs by joining our individual resources of time & talents?

(d) *Family*: As a family, discuss and apply **question (c)** above.

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### ***Doing the Implanted Word***