

JAMES

MARK IT UP

James 1:22-25 Discussion Guide

Week of 3/13/22

Icebreaker: Which of the following areas of life is most challenging to you?

- Personal finances (spending, giving, saving, investing, etc.)
- Relationships (parenting, dating, marriage, etc.)
- Diet and exercise (limiting calories, working out, etc.)

What percent of the challenge you experience is due to not knowing what to do and how much is due to not acting on what you know you should do?

Getting Started: Read James 1:22-25 as a group.

1. James begins these verses with a warning against self-deception. What is it about only hearing the word and not doing it that leaves a person vulnerable to this kind of deception?

Application: Why do you think we're prone to being "hearers" only and not also "doers" of God's word?

2. James cautions against being "hearers only," which means that hearing is still really important! What's the danger of jumping into action as a "doer" without also listening to God's word?

Application: What kind of practices, commitments, or habits can help us listen well to God's word?

3. Verses 23-25 paint a picture of what it's like to *only* hear God's word. What benefit is a mirror to someone who "at once forgets what he was like"? How do you think this is like people who hear but do not act on what they've heard?

Application: As specific as you can be, what do you find easy to hear or listen to from God's word, but hard to put into action? What do you think is keeping you from being a "doer"?

4. Verse 25 commends the person who "looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty." It almost sounds like a contradiction, but in what sense do God's commands bring us freedom or "liberty"?

Application: What's an example of a command from Scripture that has given freedom in your life? (Or, flip things around and think about a time where disobedience to one of God's commands robbed you of some degree of it?)

5. Every LifeGroup at Calvary is a Biblical Community on Mission—a community that listens to God's word and then seeks to actively live it out together so that we might be "blessed" like verse 25 states.

Application: How would you assess your group when it comes to hearing and doing God's word? None of us is perfect and no group is perfect, but what steps could you commit to as a group to grow in both areas?