

JAMES

MARK IT UP

James 1:26-27 Discussion Guide

Week of 3/20/22

Icebreaker: Have you ever known someone who was self-deceived or self-unaware (not you, of course)? What was the problem with their deception?

Getting Started: Read James 1:26-27 as a group.

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word “religious”? Is it a good thing, bad thing, or something in between?

Application: Do you think of yourself as being religious? Why?

2. What do you think it means for a person to “not bridle his tongue”? How could this be a self-deception of the heart? (*Consult Matthew 12:33-37 for more insight.*)

Application: What helps you “bridle the tongue”? What situation or habit makes it most difficult for you to keep a tight rein on your words?

3. There is a religion that’s “pure and undefiled”! What is it about “orphans and widows” that would make them the focus of attention here?

Application: Who do you know who could fit into these or similar categories of people? How are they being cared for?

4. There are two parts to this commendable kind of religion and the second is “to keep oneself unstained from the world.” What do you think this means?

Application: How does this idea hit you? Do you think of the “world” (i.e., culture, society, etc.) as something that can be harmful? What does it look like for us to live out what James is saying?

5. We’ve made it through chapter 1! What has been a highlight, challenge, or encouragement of this series for you so far?