

HEARING AND DOING THE WORD

LESSON SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19-27

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: JAMES 1:19-27

Key Verse: Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. James 1:22

James 1:19-27 (NRSV)

19 You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;

20 for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.

21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

24 for they look at themselves

and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

WORD POWER!!!

- **God’s Righteousness** – Wise living that reflects what God feels is most important.
- **Meekness** – Open attitude that allows people to focus on more than their wants and needs.
- **Persevere** – Ability to keep doing something when it’s hard to do so.
- **Undeified** – Not spoiled, ruined, or discredited.
- **“Your Anger”** – The kind of anger that causes people to lash out in ways that don’t right any wrongs.

GETTING READY!!!

Maria and all the other kids got WWJD bracelets during the *Youth Moment* in church. The person who gave out the bracelets said they should remind kids to do what Jesus would do. Maria didn’t say anything at the time, but she was a little scared to use the bracelet that way. She knew that Jesus died for people’s sins, rose from the dead, and went up to heaven. Maria also knew that those weren’t things that she could do.

When Maria got home, she talked to her parents about her worries. That’s when they started telling her about some of the other things Jesus did. They said Jesus fed two large groups of hungry people. They also said Jesus helped grown-ups understand that kids needed to spend time with Jesus, too. Maria felt better after that because she knew she could do stuff like that.

Activity #1 – Things I Like Most About Jesus. Use the space on the next page to list things that Jesus did that you like the

most.

1.

2.

3.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

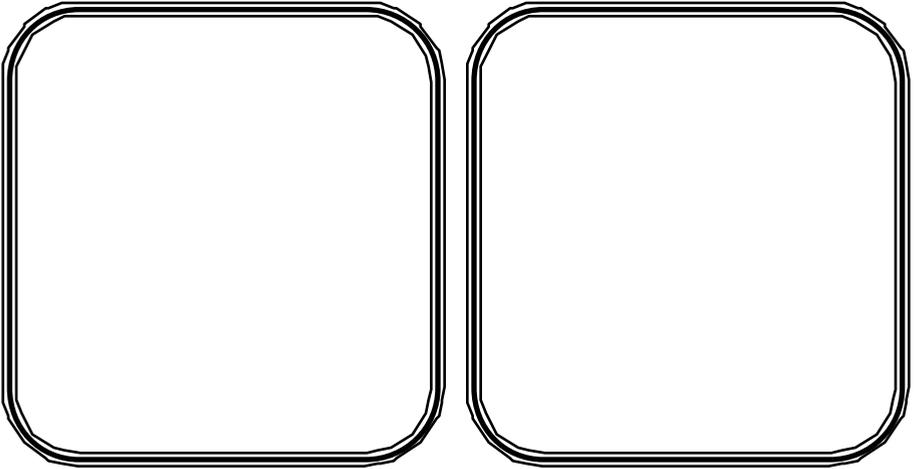
Today's lesson reminds us to take an honest look at ourselves. It reminds us that learning about how to live a wise and godly life should be part of our goal. After we hear the words in scripture, we need to them. Otherwise, we're not living up to the example that Jesus set for us. Instead, we're deceiving ourselves and making it seem like following Jesus is worthless.

If you're like Maria, you're probably panicking a little at this moment. It probably seems like doing the things that Jesus did are also beyond your reach. If we try to do it on our own, you're probably right. That's why James lays out a foolproof plan.

Step 1 is to get rid of bad influences like the kind of anger that destroys stuff. Then, we can replace it with the kind of anger that won't allow us to stop until we've righted a wrong. Step 2 is to look for chances to help others who are in need. Then we can show people that being a follower of Jesus is worth the effort that living a wise and godly life requires.

Activity #2 – An Honest Look in the Mirror. Fill the mirror on the left with the negative things that you think you need to get

rid of. Fill the mirror on the right with the godly things you need to replace them with.



USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Sometimes, we fail to act on what we hear because we're not really listening. Maybe we're so focused on finishing a task that we don't hear a family member's plea to spend quality time with us. That's what Elena and her sister, Isabel, do to their grandmother in the "Sugar Rush" episode of *Elena of Avalor*.



They hear the words their grandmother says about family time

being important, but don't act like it's important to them. Sure, they re-open the family chocolate shop with their grandmother. But they rush through the recipe so that they can work on a special project with some visiting royals instead of spending quality time with their grandmother. That made the grandmother believe that her family was falling apart.

Guess what? We send a similar message when we don't put to work what we've learned about God. We know God helps people in need because we've read about it in the Bible. We've studied it in Sunday school. We've heard it in sermons and songs. We've heard that we're supposed to be like God. We're fooling ourselves when we say we're following Jesus if we never help anybody else. That's why we must do the wise and godly things that we know Jesus would do.

Activity #3 – Increasing the Good. Look at the list of people in need of help below. Pick one and talk with your class about what can be done to help them.

1. A kid in class tells you they don't understand the homework assignment that you're almost finished with.
2. You see a group of kids bullying someone because they dress differently.
3. You notice a kid in church is always hungry.
4. One of the usher's arms is in a cast so they can't hold the offering tray.

REMIX!!!

It's easy to trick yourself into believing that learning about Jesus and how to live wisely is enough. That's what Maria and the

people James wrote to believed at first. Then someone helped them understand that living a wise and godly life also includes doing good things for others. Let's follow James' advice. Let's listen closely to what a wise and godly life should look like. Then, let's do those things that match what we've heard and learned.

PRAISE THE LORD!!!

We say we love you and want to be like you
We study your ways and sing your praise
But we don't love others like you do
We hear their cries of pain
And don't even offer a band-aid
That kind of religion doesn't honor you
So, Jesus, help us to change
Show us how to hear and do for others what you would do.