



MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE
Faith isn't just what we hear. It's what we do.	James 1:19-27
Students will understand that God's Word is meant to change how they live, and they will identify one practical way they can begin obeying what they hear from Scripture.	
Teaching Script / Guide	

HOOK

- **Have you ever looked at yourself in the mirror before leaving the house... and something felt off?**
 - Maybe there was food in your teeth
 - Hair sticking up
 - Shirt inside out
- Now... imagine seeing that in the mirror... and doing nothing about it.
 - That would be weird, right?
 - Why?
- Because the whole point of a mirror is to show you what needs fixing.

TENSION:

- **This week as we continue to work our way through the book of James, James makes a weird comparison. He writes that the Bible is like a mirror.**
 - The same way that a mirror shows us something about our appearance, the Word of God reveals the truth about our heart.
- But James acknowledges a big problem that a lot of us have...
 - A lot of people hear God's Word... and then walk away unchanged...
 - They listen
 - They may even agree
 - Bu they never actually live it.
 - And what we're about to see is that James says that that type of faith is deceptive.

SCRIPTURE:

- **We are continuing our walk through the book of James and in James 1:19-27 James talks about how we as believers are called to not only hear the Word of God, but also to respond to it.**
- **READ or INVITE A STUDENT TO READ JAMES 1:19-27**
 - We're not going to cover all of this today, but each week someone will read more of this letter, and by the end of the Summer, we will have read all of the book of James together as a group!
 - We're going to walk through this passage and highlight some of the shocking things James is saying.
- **James 1:19**
 - James starts in a fascinating place: "Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry."
 - This is a heart posture of humility. Why does he go there first?

- Because **following Jesus starts with humility** – the willingness to admit, “Jesus, your way is better than mine.”
 - James is encouraging us to listen BEFORE we react. That’s going to be important because this type of heart posture is one that listens, processes, and then responds appropriately.
 - This is the way we should approach the Word of God.
- **James 1:22**
 - It’s here where James highlights that the goal is not just to “hear” the Word, but rather to listen to it AND obey it.
 - Hearing the Bible isn’t the goal, and hearing it alone doesn’t lead to the life that Jesus came to make available.
 - Hearing it AND living it is.
- **James 1:23-24**
 - This is where James gives the mirror example.
 - Someone who hears God’s Word but doesn’t obey it is like a person who looks in the mirror... and immediately forgets what they look like.
 - They see the truth, they’re made aware of it... But it didn’t actually change anything.
- **James 1:27**
 - Real faith shows up in real life.
 - It shows up in:
 - How we treat people
 - How we care for those in need
 - How do we live differently from the world around us

TRUTH:

- Real faith isn’t just something you know... It’s something you live.

APPLICATION/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SET UP:

- Ask:
 - What is something you know the Bible says... but struggle to live out?
 - Kindness
 - Honesty
 - Forgiveness
 - Controlling your words
- Challenge them with this:
 - The next time you hear God’s word (maybe even right now), ask: “God, what do you want me to do about this?”

INVITATION/CLOSE:

- God’s Word is a gift. It shows us who we are... and who we’re becoming
 - But it only changes us when we respond to it.
 - Pray that students would become people who live out what they hear.
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