

OF EARS, TONGUES, AND HANDS

Book of James Study Program

BACKGROUND:

Our reaction to God's Word changes the way we live. If we are open to receive God's mandates and corrections, our lives will reflect the love of Christ. If we stand stiff-necked in rebellion against God's Word, we are destined to live with the consequences that come with that rebellion. How will you respond? Will you receive and abide by the Word of God, or will you fight against it, going your own way? James reveals how to continue to grow spiritually as we travel along life's journey.

DAY 1: READ JAMES 1:19-21

1. How do you usually handle conflict?
2. How does James suggest we handle conflict?
3. Why do you think James suggests we should listen twice as much as we speak? How does that affect the other person involved in the conflict?
4. How does the way we receive God's Word keep us from becoming angry to the point of sin?

Pray: Father, show me when I need to stop talking in order to honor You. Help me to curb my anger, and instead show respect to others as I listen to their points of view. Teach me to receive your Word deep into my heart so it can fully change my life. Amen.

DAY 2: READ JAMES 1:22-25

1. Would you consider yourself more a hearer of God's Word or a doer of God's Word? Explain your answer.
2. What is the Christian's responsibility regarding the Word of God?
3. How can your spiritual growth be stunted if you refuse to take action on what you learn from God's Word?

4. How does acting on what you read and hear from God's Word give you strength as a follower of Jesus?

Pray: Lord, I ask You to compel me to act on the truths I hear from Your Word. Create in me a burning desire to live out all that You have told me. Mold me into the person You created me to be. Amen.

DAY 3: READ JAMES 1:26-27

1. How has your tongue gotten you in trouble in the past?

2. How do your conduct and character suggest that you are seeking holiness in your life? What can you change to move toward a life of holiness?

3. How are you currently involved in caring for others in need (orphans and widows)?

4. What practices do you have in place to help you "keep yourself unstained by the world"?

Pray: Father, I want to live my faith out loud, helping those in need, and separating myself from the things that don't honor you. Help me to do that well. Identify those who need help, and those who can help me be more like you. Amen.

DAY 4: READ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

1. Where would you place yourself on the continuum between humble and selfish? Do you lean more to one side or the other? Explain your answer.

2. What does it mean to "consider others more significant than you"? How good are you at that?

3. Ask the people around you to answer question #2. How do your answers compare with theirs?

4. What would change in your life if you were to make this passage the filter through which you run all your thoughts and words?

Pray: Father, thank You for placing Jesus as the example of true humility. I pray that You would humble me so that I can look more like You. Teach me to see others as You see them — valuable and uniquely made. Amen.