

Further Study Guide

Bible Series 10: Application - Becoming Doers of the Word

Key Theme

James reminds believers that the purpose of God's Word is not merely information but transformation. Genuine faith is evidenced not only by what we know, but by how we live. Jesus

1. Opening Reflection

Before beginning, spend a few moments considering:

- What is one thing God has taught me recently?
- Have I acted upon it?
- What difference has it made in my life?
- Is there a gap between what I know and what I do?

2. Read the Main Scriptures

James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:24-27 & Galatians 6:7-10

3. Digging Deeper

A. The Mirror Test

James compares God's Word to a mirror.

Questions

1. Why do you think James uses the image of a mirror?
2. What happens when we see something wrong in a mirror but do nothing about it?
3. Have there been times when God showed you something through Scripture that required a change?

Identify one area where God has recently highlighted an attitude, habit, relationship or an act of obedience. What practical step could you take this week?

B. What Does Jesus Emphasise?

In the sermon, the observation is made that many of Jesus' commands concern relationships and the treatment of others.

1. What might this reveal about God's priorities for his people?
2. How does loving others demonstrate love for God?
3. Why is obedience more than religious activity?
4. Which command of Jesus do you find most challenging?

C. The Weightier Matters

Jesus criticised religious leaders who focused on minor details while neglecting justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

1. What are "weightier matters" in God's eyes? What might you add to this?
2. Why is mercy so important?
3. Can a person be religious yet miss the heart of God?

4. Case Studies for Discussion (optional)

Consider how Jesus might respond to the situations presented in the sermon?

Scenario 1: You encounter someone sleeping rough on a cold day.

- What would compassion look like?
- What assumptions might prevent action?
- How can wisdom and mercy work together?

Scenario 2: A neighbour who mocked your faith has fallen into serious trouble.

- What would forgiveness look like?
- How might Jesus call you to respond?
- What opportunities for grace could emerge?

Scenario 3: You have a friend whose lifestyle raises biblical questions.

- How do truth and love work together?
- What can we learn from Jesus' treatment of sinners?
- How can we maintain genuine relationships while remaining faithful to biblical convictions?

5. Examining the Fruit

Jesus taught that trees are known by their fruit. Paul described the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 (Read).

- Which fruit is strongest in your life?
- Which fruit needs the most growth?
- What circumstances tend to test that fruit?
- How might you cooperate with the Holy Spirit in this area?

6. True Religion

James describes "pure and genuine religion" as caring for vulnerable people and remaining unstained by the world.

1. Why do you think the examples of widows, orphans, foreigners, and the vulnerable are so significant to God?
2. Who are the vulnerable people in our community today?
3. How can our church reflect God's heart toward them?

7. Personal Application

What is God speaking to you about as a result of this teaching and study?

One area where I need to move from hearing to doing is...?

8. Prayer Response

Father, thank You for Your Word. Forgive me where I have been content to listen without obeying. Form Christ's character in me. Fill me with Your Spirit so that my life bears good fruit and reflects Your love to those around me. Help me become not merely a hearer of the Word, but a doer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Memory Verse

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22)