

SVQ Guide Week 2

James 1:20-27

Scripture, Video, Questions (SVQ)

Session 1 SVQ

- Ready James 1:20-21
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
 - **The wrath of man does not produce righteousness. Why is it that the word says the "wrath of Man" does not produce righteousness?** The word "wrath" here is the same as previous verses. It is the word smoldering anger that holds a grudge against someone. The word for "man" is the word "mankind".
 - **How does James 1:20-21 challenge our understanding of anger and righteousness in the context of living a life aligned with God's desires? After hearing this verse last week, do have an idea of when it is ok to be angry and when it becomes wrath?**
 - **In practical terms, how can we implement the advice from James 1:21 in our daily lives to cultivate a more righteous and God-honoring way of living?** (C.S. Lewis said, "one man may be so placed that his anger sheds the blood of thousands, and another so placed that however angry he gets he will only be laughed at." There is a time and place for the emotional side of anger. It is in the will of God verses out of the will of God, that we must battle with the emotion. It reminds me on the movie the "WaterBoy". Bobby Boucher's teammates were teasing him about how Gatorade was better than water... He got so angry. The Coach said to him, "Bobby use that angry." "Use it on the field toward the other team." Anger breeds passion.
 - **In verse 21, it talks about the implanted word of God. Why does "meekness" and "the implanted word of God go hand in hand?** If you treat the word of God like your kidneys, you are making a big mistake. The word of God is not solely used to take out the waste of the body (the sin that is within), it is used as the life blood of the body. The body and the soul will never work as intended until you implant the word of God as it is purposed too.

Session 2 SVQ

- Read James 1:22-25
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
 - **The book of James begins with who we are as followers of Jesus Christ. Regarding our relationship with Jesus, what is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?** We often ask for the knowledge of what, instead of the wisdom of who. Who am I to be? The doing comes out of the being. I am to be a "beloved brother/sister" of Christ and because of who I am, I will now DO what the LORD says.)
 - **"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." (James 1:23-25) If you**

look in the mirror and do nothing to change, the mirror isn't really helping you and you are not a doer of the Word. What is the simplest struggle when it comes to being a doer of the word?

(Rusty) Mine is praying about everything. I have a prayer life that includes daily prayer for people and things, along with actionable prayer. Which mean in the moment prayer. But often times I need to spend time in prayer to be able to have discernment. I know this is a need, but I put time ahead of wisdom. My "doing" requires me to do more "hearing".

- **Where in your life do you see evidence of being a doer of the word? Where do you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life?** (Obeying God's Word leads to life, liberty and community. The Bible tells us the enemy's vision - to steal, kill and destroy. The Good Shepherd's vision for your life is the abundant life. In obedience to Him, you get Him.)
- **If you could do anything for the glory of God, what would you do? What is God telling you to do? Share what your next step is.** (Being a follower of Jesus means that you take the next step of obedience in the direction that He is calling you. Your intentions are meaningless if they don't lead to actions.
- **We are all busy and sometimes that can prevent you from taking your next step. What do you need to remove from your life so you have room to respond to God's call?**
- **We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. How is the process of taking your next steps of faith and being a doer of the Word NOT salvation by works?** (Being a doer of the word is a grace driven effort. Grace is not opposed to effort; it's opposed to earning. It's a process of following Jesus and becoming more like Him. He is at work and "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6) It's a progressive process of, "What is my next step of faith in the direction of obedience?" I'm not all that I'm going to be but thank God I'm not who I use to be.)

Session 3 SVQ

- Read James 1:26-27
- Video Teaching
- Leader Wisdom
- Questions
 - **LEADERS:** There's no pressure to get through all the questions, we suggest prayerfully planning your choices for your group. Your leadership of sharing and questioning will determine how deep your group goes with each question.
 - **What do you think about when you hear the word "religion"?** (James talks about two kinds of religion. There is "religion" that is worthless, impure and defiled. It's all talk and no action and thinks the power is in our works, not the Gospel. It's where the "love of God" stops with me instead of flowing through me and where status is the most important marker. There is also religion that is worthwhile, pure and undefiled. It's salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, where faith always produces fruit/action.)
 - **In James, we are challenged to be "doers of the Word." How have you been a doer of the Word this past week?** (As you give examples of being a "doer of the Word" the question really comes down to the "why." Why do you do what you do? Why do you serve in the compacity to serve. Why do you live in abundant life or attempt to live in the confines of your on will? Being hearer of the word requires doing.
 - **If you don't do what the word of God says.....Are you hearing what God is saying? Is there a separation in God's eyes and if so, what does that look like?** This is a huge theological conversation to have. Because we hear God speak, are we require to "do"? The idea of free will is implanted in us in our design, however, just like God has abnegated his authority to rule us as His subjects, we are to abnegate our idea of self-rule through our salvation. This is so God can rule and reign in our lives.
 - **In the Bible, the word "visit" means to care for, show up for, redeem, raise up and give life. What orphans and widows has God placed in your life to visit?** (Visiting is more than just

stopping by to chat and drop off food. Visiting orphans and widows means to look after, to take care of and to provide for with the implication of continuous responsibility.)

- **How is “visiting widows and orphans” a reflection of what Jesus did for us?** (Jesus came to earth and showed up for us, he loves us, cares for us, died for us, redeemed us, brought us from death to life and makes us righteous in the eyes of God.)