

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Today's section is one of the powerful & useful passages you'll ever read in the Bible. Wake up! As a small group, take a few moments to each share the most distracting thing on your brain right now. Pray for focus, and dive in!

Read **James 1:19-27**. Quickly, have each person share which verse hits them the most.

There's an old saying: *"God gave us two ears and only one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we speak."* Take a few moments to consider: are you a good listener? Would others agree? Why?



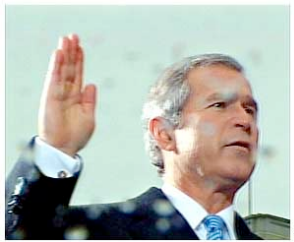
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very little, and 5 being very much, have each person in small group rate themselves on the following list:

	1	2	3	4	5
QUICK TO LISTEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SLOW TO SPEAK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How does anger interfere with our relationship with Jesus?

Re-read **vs. 21**. What **"moral filth"** surrounds you these days? Be specific.

Look at **vs. 22**. What does it mean to accept or receive the Word? Read **Joshua 1:8**.



TELL THE TRUTH: How goes it with your Bible reading?
Take some time to talk this through as a small group.

1. What helps you to do this?
2. What keeps you from doing it?
3. What can you start doing this week to grow in this area?

To develop this habit is **CRUCIAL** - it will help you learn best how to **LISTEN** to God.

“Can you hear me now?”



Where do we go from here? How can you help each other read your Bibles more?

LEADER'S GUIDE

It is important that they learn how to listen:

- ✓ To each other
- ✓ To you
- ✓ To their parents
- ✓ To God

OBJECT LESSON

So have some fun to get their attention. Bring a cheap box of cutips (bring a lot – they come in boxes of 100 & 500. Depending on the size of your group, go for plenty) and a box of straws.

Have them drop cutips in the straws and shoot them at each other. Then set up a couple of competitions – who can shoot a cutip the farthest, give them a certain number, and see who can shoot all of theirs first, etc.

Don't lose total control of the group 😊

When you're done, ask them what you really use cutips for. Once they get the goofy answers out, they will hopefully conclude that the main use of a cutip is to **clean out your ears**.

This may seem obvious, but ask them: **why do we need the ability to hear?**

Tell them we're going to learn about LISTENING today.

Start the study – hand out worksheets to each student. Remember, they each should bring their previous studies in a folder or binder, their Bible, and something to write with.

APPLICATION

Help the group set some realistic goals in terms of personal Bible reading. They will most likely need help in two arenas:

1. Ideas for what to read.
2. Accountability and follow-up.

I have found that no other spiritual discipline impacts students' potential faith for the future as much as this. Help them to figure out how to build their days around some daily time with God (and not the other way around). Highlight **vs. 23** – the Bible is the most accurate “mirror” any of us could use. The Bible tells us **WHO WE ARE** better than anything else. Hammer home how much they need to **cultivate a habit of Bible reading**.

If there's time, look over the remaining verses in the passage. Make a list of how a solid understanding of scripture affects the rest of your life.

Contact Kelly if you need any help with resources in terms of personal Bible study. Encourage them to start small. 5 minutes every day is better than half an hour once a month. Set some goals in the group, and make sure you follow up on this in coming weeks.