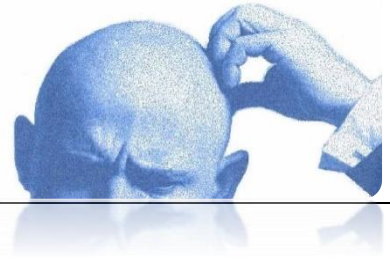


**James 1:19-27**

## Small Group Questions

---



*The following questions are intended to start conversations.*

*Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.*

*Our preaching series this spring is **Fruitful: Studies in James**. Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **James 1:19-27**. What stands out for you in this text?
- Improper speech and anger are traditional themes in Jewish wisdom literature (see Proverbs 17:27-28 for an example). What does James say about anger? How is human anger different than God's anger? What the proper place for anger?
- James returns to this theme in **verse 26**. Why is careful speech an important quality of pure religion?
- The phrase "the evil that is so prevalent" almost certainly points beyond individual sin; it includes structural (societal) sin. What does this look like today? Are there ways in which we inadvertently participate in oppressive structures?
- Instead of evil, Christians are to "humbly accept the word planted in them" (v. 21). Why does James use a gardening metaphor? What does "accepting the word" mean?
- Note the progression that James outlines: Accepting the word → looking intently into it → doing what it says. How are each of these steps essential?
- What is the law that James refers to in **verse 25**? How does it give us freedom?
- Re-read **verse 27**. Who are modern orphans and widows? How do we look after them?
- How can we live in the world without being "polluted" by the world?