

Living Faith

“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.”

James 1:12



Get to Know you: Got any “pet peeves”? What really pushes your buttons & gets you hot under the collar?

- 1. Read James 1:19-27.** This passage in James' letter addresses several different issues. What are they? Which issue stands out most to you and why?
- 2. Re-read James 1:19-20,** then read **Ephesians 4:17-27.** In the Ephesians passage, “Gentiles” is referring to those outside of faith who do not follow Jesus. How does Paul describe them? What are Christ-followers instructed to do in verses 23-25. What instructions/warnings are give about anger?

3. Pastor Deanna shared from Jesus teaching in Matthew 7:1-5, warning against judging others and trying to identify and fix other people's problems rather than working on living out the Gospel ourselves. (Logs & specks). **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-12.** What do you notice about King David's response to Nathan's story? What does this tell you about David's desire to do right for others and his own self-awareness?

 4. **Read James 1:22-25.** When we consider putting into practice what God's Word says, we often get confused when we see or experience things that seemingly contradict. While the whole of scripture is important and valuable for us today, how do we know which parts are meant for us to "practice" (do what it says) and which parts are meant to teach us principles or a historical narrative? What role does the Holy Spirit play in this process? Read **John 16:1-15** to see what Jesus taught His disciples about this.

 5. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.** In this passage, we see another reference to a mirror in relation to our spiritual life practice. What does the writer communicate is of primary importance when living out our faith? How does this align with what Jesus teaches in Matthew 22:34-40? How do we find balance between obeying what the Bible teaches us concerning right and wrong and showing love?

 6. **Read and discuss James 1:26-27.** What practical applications do you see for your own life in your current circumstances?
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