



Study Guide: How Will the World Know? Living Out the Word

Series: The Book of James

Link: <https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2026-03-15-how-will-the-world-know>

Scripture Focus	Preacher	Date
James 1:19-27; John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:26; Matthew 25:31-46	Steve Haney	March 15, 2026

Day 1: Awareness (Quick to Hear)

- **Focus:** Listening to understand.
- **Read/Review:** James 1:19 — "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."
- **Reflect:** Do I interrupt others because I'm afraid I'll forget my "winning" point?
- **Practice:** In every conversation today, wait three seconds after the other person finishes talking before you respond.
- **Pray:** "Lord, give me ears that truly hear. Help me to value others' perspectives today."
- **Optional (Go Deeper):** Read Proverbs 18:13

Day 2: Personal Reflection (The Mirror)

- **Focus:** Seeing the Word clearly.
- **Read/Review:** James 1:23-24 (ESV) "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."
- **Reflect:** What is one specific command of Jesus I heard recently but haven't acted on yet?
- **Practice:** Write down one thing the Bible told you to do today and carry that note with you until it's done.

- **Pray:** "God, don't let me be a forgetful hearer. Transform my heart so my actions follow Your truth."
- **Optional (Go Deeper):** Read Matthew 7:24-27

Day 3: Relational Application (Slow to Anger)

- **Focus:** Choosing grace over "rights."
- **Read/Review:** James 1:20 — "For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."
- **Reflect:** Is there a "justified" anger I am clinging to that is actually hindering my growth?
- **Practice:** Identify one person you are frustrated with. Commit to speaking only words of kindness or encouragement to them today.
- **Pray:** "Father, take my anger and replace it with Your peace. Help me to be a peacemaker."
- **Optional (Go Deeper):** Read Ephesians 4:31-32

Day 4: Faith-in-Action (The Bridle)

- **Focus:** Governing our influence.
- **Read/Review:** James 1:26
Summary: Our religion is worthless if we don't bridle our tongues (or our keyboards).
- **Reflect:** If someone only knew me through my digital footprint, would they see Jesus?
- **Practice:** Before you post, text, or speak a criticism today, ask: "Does this produce the righteousness of God?" If not, don't say it.
- **Pray:** "Jesus, be the Lord of my mouth and my social media. May my words be full of grace."
- **Optional (Go Deeper):** Read Psalm 141:3

Day 5: Integration (Pure Religion)

- **Focus:** Serving the afflicted.
- **Read/Review:** James 1:27 — "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction..."

- **Reflect:** Who in my community feels invisible or forgotten?
- **Practice:** Make a phone call, send a card, or visit someone you know who is lonely, grieving, or struggling.
- **Pray:** "Lord, thank You for the community of believers. Help me to be Your hands and feet to someone in need today."
- **Optional (Go Deeper):** Read 1 John 3:18

Supplemental

Family / Kids Table Talk:

1. Why did God give us two ears but only one mouth?
2. What does it look like to "listen with your heart"?
3. How can we be "doers" of kindness at school this week?
4. Is it ever okay to be mean just because someone else was mean first?
5. Who can our family help this week who might be lonely?

Youth Adaptation:

- **Questions:** Is it harder to be a Christian on TikTok/Insta or in person? Why does "winning" an argument online usually feel like losing in real life? What does it mean to be "unstained" by what everyone else thinks is cool?
- **Challenge:** Go one whole day without posting any "clapbacks" or negative comments.

Serving/Outreach:

8. Visit a local nursing home or assisted living facility (visiting the "widows").
9. Support a foster care ministry or local orphanage support group.

"If you're struggling with..."

- If you are struggling with a hot temper or a habit of gossip, know that there is no shame in asking for help. We are a "body of believers" meant to share burdens. Reach out to a trusted friend or leader this week; admitting you're failing is the first step toward the "blessing" of doing.