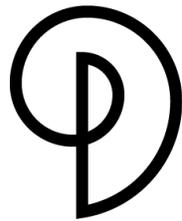


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Listening & Doing

January 11 & 12, 2020

Genuine faith will inevitably produce good deeds. This is the central theme of James' letter, around which he supplies practical advice on living the Christian life. In last week's message, we talked about how the relationship between faith and endurance is rooted in the relationship between joy and wisdom. This week we'll be focusing on the relationship between listening and doing.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JAMES 1:19-27

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

"Miraculous!" "Revolutionary!" "Greatest ever!" We are inundated by a flood of extravagant claims as we channel surf the television or flip magazine pages. The messages leap out at us. The products assure that they are new, improved, fantastic, and capable of changing our lives. But talk is cheap, and too often we soon realize that the boasts were hollow, quite far from the truth.

"Jesus is the answer!" "Believe in God!" "Follow me to church!" Christians also make great claims but are often guilty of misrepresenting them with their actions. Professing to trust God and to be his people, they cling tightly to the world and its values. Possessing all the right answers, they contradict the gospel with their lives. With energetic style and crisp, well-chosen words, James confronts this conflict head-on. It is not enough to talk the Christian faith, he says; we must live it.

James urges Christ followers to do three things: *Be "quick to listen"* [open your ears] and *"slow to speak"* [close your mouth]. There's much practical wisdom in heeding that advice. *Be doers of the Word* and not just hearers. *Be those who put the faith into action* not simply giving lip service to what our faith in Christ demands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which best describes your temper: short fuse, long fuse, something else? Share an example.
- Can you think of a time when you spoke too soon and wished you could take your words back? What did you learn from that experience?
- What does it look like to be "doers of the Word?" How have you seen others put their faith into action?
- What is James' main message in this passage? What is our takeaway from this section?

APPLICATION: This week, consider one way you can put your faith into action. How can we go from being hearers to doers? Try to put that action into practice at least once this week.