

Small Group Questions
Collide: Doing Meets Hearing
10/23/11

Getting Started...

Share a time in your life when someone told you what to do, but you did not do it. What was the result?

Write down something totally unsolicited someone did for you that blessed you.

Going Deeper...

James 1:19-27

In James, slowness is one characteristic of the Biblical anger James lists. Look up Prov. 15:1, 29:11, Eph. 4:26, and Col. 3:8-11. What other characteristics of Biblical anger do you see in those verses?

Write down the last three times you were angry. What were you angry at, and how much did your anger reflect those characteristics?

In James 1:19-21; putting off explosive anger and becoming slow to be angry, as well as putting aside moral filth and wickedness are a few characteristics of a "doer of the word". Look up the following verses: Eph 4:17-32, Col 3:5-17; what additional characteristics do you see?

Which characteristics are a struggle for you, or need to be deepened in you?

Read James 1:22-25

What is the perfect law that gives freedom?

How will obedience lead to blessing? Share an experience in your life where your obedience has led to blessing.

If obedience leads to blessing; why don't we obey all the time?

The key to becoming an "effectual doer of the word" is not will power or white knuckled determination. If it was, we would get the glory. Read James 1:21 and 25. What does James consider the key to how we are transformed into "doers of the word"?

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In verse 26 James connects the heart to the tongue and says that the tongue has the power to render all good deeds worthless. Can you explain the significance of this connection and why it makes sense that it would have such a devastating effect? For some help; look up Matt. 15:15-20, Ja.3:2-12, Prov. 10:11-21, 18:21.

Pastor Ronn talked about 3 specific ways that we can obey from James 1:26-27. He talked about obeying by what we say, whom we help, and how we live. What is the most difficult for you to obey and what area is easier for you?

How can your small group help you obey the Word of God rather than just listen to it? What are some practical ways that your group can start this week?

Take it home...

James 1:27 takes being a doer of the word beyond personal sanctification to deeds done for others, specifically orphans and widows in this case. Eph 2:10 says God has prepared works in advance for us to do. Gal. 5:13 calls our works acts of love. Putting it all together; our works are spirit led works that overflow from love in our hearts for our "neighbor". Are there people outside of your family that God may be leading you to minister to? Take some time to pray and consider the things that you love to do. How might God be able to use those things to bless someone and bring glory to Himself?

3 Specific Areas of Obedience:

1) The _____ you use.

2) The people you _____.

3) The _____ that you _____.

Don't just _____, _____ it!