

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

James 1:19-27

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. A POSTURE
2. A PROOF
3. A PRACTICE
 - Study it intently
 - Study it reflectively
 - Study it obediently

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick two or three of these to talk about as a group

1. What was most helpful for you from this week's message? Why?
2. This week's message focused on the sword of the spirit, which is God's word. How would you describe your relationship with the Bible? How has it shaped your life? What questions do you have about it?
3. Bible study will not do us any good if we are not approaching it with a posture of humility. James 1:19 gives us a litmus test for if we have a posture of humility to receive God's word. You must ask yourself, "How do I respond when people speak into my life?" What is your answer to this question?
4. James 1:27 shows us that the proof that we are being shaped by the Bible is that we will be passionate about BOTH social morality and personal purity. When you honestly assess your own life, which of these would it seem that you care more about? Why do you think it is rare to see someone who is passionate about both of these things?
5. If we want the Bible to shape us, we must study it intently. How often do you read the Bible? When you read the Bible, would you say you are studying it intently? Why or why not?
6. If we want the Bible to shape us, we must study it reflectively. The Bible acts as a mirror and reveals the truth about us. What are some hard truths you have learned about yourself as a result of reading God's word reflectively? Do you have specific questions you use to help you reflect on what you are reading?
7. If we want the Bible to shape us, we must study it obediently. When you follow Jesus you will be called to obedience that is so painful it feels like a death. Where is God calling you to obedience right now? Where does the strength and courage to obey in these sort of situations come from?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: We have not begun to understand the word of God until we see Jesus on every page.