

The Jesus Story

Groups

Part 1 - Prologue

Pastor's Message Growth

Scripture

Primary Verse: James 1:22-25

Have everyone read the verses out loud. It's best not to comment during the reading.

Group Flow

Catch Up

How was your week?

Observations

James 1:22 – Why does the author say that only listening to the word is to deceive oneself? Why would the author have felt the need to write about this topic to its recipients?

Scripture
Read the primary sermon verse(s) out loud

Observations

James 1:23-24 – Why do you think the author used a mirror as an analogy here? What do you think the significance of using a mirror in the 1st century might have been? How does verse 24 relate to verse 25?

James 1:25 – For the third time in three verses the author instructs his audience to not merely listen to the word, but to do what it says; why do you think he repeats himself? What do you think it means to 'be blessed' in all you do?

Application

What are these verses trying to teach us about the way we should read Scripture? What about our church attendance, times of worship and times of difficulty?

Based on these verses, what do you think the ultimate goal of The Jesus Story series will be for you? To study the Bible, or perhaps something more?

Have some extra time?
Check out these related verses:
Matthew 7:21
Luke 4:9-12
John 8:31-32, 13:17
1 Timothy 4:2
James 2:14-20

As your group moves through the series together, how can the other members help you reach your goal? How can the other members of your group act as a 'mirror' in your life?

Prayer of the Week

Psalm 19:7-10 (NRSV)

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb."