

# 1

# LEADER LESSON

## JAMES 1:22-25



### LEADER TEACHER TIP:

Leaders should ALWAYS avoid sitting next to each other. Spread out and sit amongst your students. Be intentional about sitting next to students who tend to be disruptive and sit between students who frequently have side conversations.

### INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

#### PRAY

Open your time in prayer.

#### CHECKPOINT

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY: How did praying each morning change how you made decisions last week? For those who focused on Bible verses, how have they influenced your thoughts or actions?

#### ENGAGE

To view the engage video, please see the instructions stored on the back of the TV in your room.

### READ JAMES 1:22-25

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES):

1. According to James, what two actions should Christ followers take to avoid being hypocrites in our faith? (verse 22).
  - *Answer: 1. Do not merely (just) listen to the Word 2. Do what it says.*
2. What does verse 22 mean? How do Christians deceive themselves when they "merely listen to the word"?
  - *Answer: Christians deceive themselves by thinking that reading the Word is enough to prove they are a Christian. Actions prove what people believe which is why It's important to actually live out what the Word teaches.*
3. What comparison does James make in verse 23?
  - *Answer: He compares someone who listens but doesn't act to someone who looks in a mirror and forgets what they look like.*
4. Where have you struggled to follow what God's word says? Have your actions matched your beliefs?
5. In verses 23 and 24 James uses an analogy to explain his point. What could his analogy mean?
  - *Answer: When people look in a mirror and notice something out of place, they take action and attempt to fix it. James is saying that just "looking" at the Word isn't enough. Christians need to remember what they see and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, work to live differently.*
6. James calls God's law the "perfect law that gives freedom" (1:25 NIV). Some people think God's law takes away their freedom. Do you agree or disagree? Give an example to prove your answer.
7. Where is God challenging you to avoid being hypocritical in your faith? What are some consequences of being hypocritical? What relationships might it damage?

## CHECKPOINT CHALLENGE... how to apply this (10 MINUTES):

Since "no one likes a hypocrite", and reading the Bible is the key to understanding and applying what it says, it *really* needs to happen more than just once a week at RUSH. What's one step you can take to read the Bible more often and more carefully than you are now? Write down what you will commit to.

## CLOSING PRAYER IDEA (10 MINUTES):

Prayer journal: every student spends 10 minutes writing out a prayer and then turns their prayer journal into their small group leader. Small group leaders take the journals home and pray over the prayer requests and write back to the student similar to a PenPal situation. Leaders bring the prayer journals back on the next small group night.

# DIVE DEEPER

## RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO DIVE DEEPER AFTER TONIGHT

- Use the "Subject Guide/Reference" section in the back of the Bible to look up specific words and verses to help connect meaning.
- Use your phone or the internet to look up words you do not understand instead of skipping over them.

### EXAMINING SCRIPTURE

Acts 17:11, 2  
Corinthians 13:5, 2  
Timothy 3:16-17

### APPLYING THE WORD

Luke 11:28, Romans  
2:13, John 13: 16-17,  
Matthew 7:24-27,  
Jeremiah 7:23-24, James  
2:14-22, Psalm 119: 9-16,  
Hypocrite: Matthew 6:1-  
24, 1 John 3:17-19

### PODCAST/SPOTIFY/YT



"Taking off the Mask of  
Hypocrisy"  
by John Ortberg