

WALK FAITHFULLY (Part 1) James 1:19-27

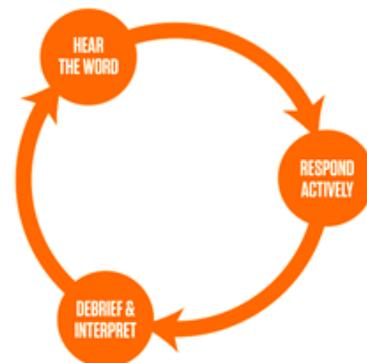
As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, share how you were influenced by the previous study since your last meeting. Use the following questions for review.

D Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

H Hear the Word

What does it mean to faithfully walk with God through our daily lives in the nursing profession? Let's look at this passage from James for guidance on how to live and care with integrity.



Read James 1:19-27:

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Discuss:

1. What realities and challenges does James identify that these Christ followers were facing?
2. Rather than responding with “human anger,” what suggestions does James offer? How do these responses act as a witness to those around us?
3. How would you summarize what James is saying through the mirror image in vv. 22-25?
4. From this passage, what is the difference between those who “consider themselves” to be religious and what God views as acceptable religion?
5. Based on what James wrote, what is the correlation between listening, speaking, and doing in relation to living a righteous life?

R Respond Actively

James' words are challenging to us in the nursing profession. It's easy to give in to anger when we experience frustrations in the workplace. It's tempting to lash out with words against co-workers who attack us verbally. And at the end of a long shift, we may struggle to stay attentive and listen to what our patients are trying to tell us.

As you consider these three commands -- quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry -- which one do you sense God challenging you to work on? Each morning this week, before you head out to clinicals or the classroom, remind yourself to walk faithfully in that command and ask the Holy Spirit to help you do just that!

