

## **Digging Deeper: James 1:26-27**

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### **Day 1**

Get your journal and record your prayers, thoughts and ideas, asking God to search your heart and help you learn from His Word. Read James 1:26–27. What are some examples of those claiming to be religious, but were later found out not to be? Let's check out what Jesus had to say about the religious leaders of His day. Read and discuss Matthew 23.

### **Day 2**

When you pray, praise God and thank Him for all He has done for you. Then, ask God for the forgiveness of sin in your life. Read James 1:26–27. God's word has dozens of verses on why it is important to control your tongue, watching your speech. Here are several to read and discuss: Proverbs 15:28, Proverbs 6:16–19, and Matthew 12:36–37.

### **Day 3**

Find a quiet place to settle your mind and spirit. Make time and space to listen for the Holy Spirit and learn from Him; then, bring your requests to God. Read James 1:26–27. Here are some additional verses on why it's important for us to watch what we say and control our tongues. Read and discuss: Colossians 4:6, Proverbs 31:26, and Psalm 37:30.

### **Day 4**

Ask God who it is you are supposed to reach out to today to deliver an encouraging word and check in with them. Read James 1:26–27. The things we say, the motives we have, the choices we make, and the behaviors we show need to align with Jesus' gospel message and how He expects us to live. Read Psalm 19:14 and Matthew 15:18. Here Jesus is connecting the things we say with what is in our hearts and minds. Read Galatians 5:16–24. Only Jesus lived the perfect life and got ALL of these things right. Which "Fruit of the Spirit" might be your biggest challenge area when it comes to controlling your tongue?

### **Day 5**

Pray and ask God how you are supposed to be a good friend and neighbor today. Read James 1:26–27. A common phrase goes something like "talking the talk vs. walking the walk." If someone is just "talking the talk," what does this mean to you? Check out these passages and briefly discuss: Colossians 3:23–24, 2 Peter 1:5–8, James 1:22, Proverbs 19:17, 1 John 3:18, and Matthew 25:40.

### **Day 6**

As you pray, reflect and discuss with the Holy Spirit about the past days and how you can apply what you learned this week for His glory. One last time, read James 1:26–27. James specifically calls out widows and orphans and their distress. What does he say we are to do for them? Why do you think he focuses on this group of people? What else can we find in God's Word about this? See Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 82:2–4, Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 22:3–5, Zechariah 7:9–13, Proverbs 31:–9, Exodus 22:22–24, and Isaiah 10:1–4.