

EXPERIENCING GOD'S POWER

James 1:19-27

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

1. Remember the PROMISE OF JESUS

John 14:15-18

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:8

John 14:15-18

- What are these three verses telling us about the promise of Jesus?
- Who is the Spirit of Truth referred to in *v17*?
- *Luke 24:49* What does this verse tell us about the promise of Jesus from His Father?
- Who are the apostles waiting for and why?
- *Acts 1:8* What does this verse tell us will happen once the Holy Spirit has "come upon us?"
"Lord, help me, strengthen me, enable me give me power to speak and act in the way that pleases you, make me equal to the demands and pressure which I face." Pastor used this quote in the message.
- What is being asked for? Why?

2. Remember the WARNINGS OF JESUS

James 1:19-25

Matt 13:18-23

Reflect on *James 1:19-25*

- What is the wisdom expressed in **v.19**? Can you find verses in Proverbs that talk about this wisdom?
- Can you give examples of problems that anger can cause?
- Why is it important to be swift to hear and slow to speak?
- What is the command of **v.21**? How do we shed “moral filth and evil?”
- How does God’s “implanted word” rescue us?
- What is the theme of **vv. 22-25**? How do we “deceive ourselves” by just listening to God’s Word?
- What does being a doer of the Word prove about us? How would you explain the illustration of the mirror?
- Read *Matt 13:18-23* What is Jesus telling us about the seed and where it lands?
- Explain this in our world today. What do you think we could do to make sure the seed continues to grow?
- Pastor explained the Greek word “DEHOMAI” which literally means to fully embrace the Word. He referred to *1 Thess 1:6*, *1 Thess 2:13* and *2 Tim 3:16-17* to demonstrate DEHOMAI or fully embrace. Think back to *James 1:19-25* and *Matt 13:18-23*.
- What do you have to do to “fully embrace” the Word of God?

3. Remember the BLESSINGS ARE IN DOING

Read *James 1:26-27*

- What are the key characteristics of religious behavior?
- How do people who think they are religious differ from those who are truly religious?
- Why is tongue control so essential to practical Christianity?
- Pastor explained the word religious is taken from the Greek word THRESKEIA. It refers to a participation in the corporate worship of a community of believers.
- With this definition in mind, what are **vv. 26-27** telling us? As a community of believers, do we have someone that is there to help us? If THRESKIA was to be played out every day, what would it look like for us on our “Journey to Greatness” at VCF?