

KIDMUNITY | God's Word, My Life

Lesson 09: Doing What the Bible Says

Small Group Guide

Bottom Line:

God's Word is for doing, not just hearing

Memory Verse:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22

Activity One: Read It and Do It! (2nd-5th Grade)

Introduction for Leaders

This activity brings James 1:22 to life by showing kids how easy it is to *read* or *hear* something without actually *doing* it. Kids will race to follow a list of instructions, but only those who read carefully and obey completely will get it right.

Supplies Needed

- Printed *Instruction Sheets* (one per group of 2–3 kids)

Activity Instructions

1. Divide kids into groups of 2–3.
2. Hand each group an *Instruction Sheet* and explain:
“Don't look at this sheet until I say 'GO!' Your team's goal is to complete every instruction on this sheet as quickly as you can. Follow them carefully, every word matters! When your group finishes, raise your hand.”
3. Give kids a few minutes to complete the list. Most groups will rush through without reading everything.
4. After several groups finish, call everyone back together.
5. Reveal the trick: step 11 tells them to sit down quietly, raise their hand, and do nothing else on the list.
6. Celebrate the groups who followed the directions correctly and talk about what they learned.

Teaching Connection

“Some of you read everything before you started, and you caught the tricky step! Others jumped right in and missed it. That’s exactly what James was talking about when he said, ‘*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*’

It’s easy to read or hear what God says, but it only makes a difference when we *do* it. God’s Word isn’t just for learning — it’s for living. When we obey what it says, our lives change for the better.”

Discussion Questions

2nd / 3rd Grade

- What made this activity tricky?
- Why was it important to pay attention to the very first instruction?
- How is this like reading the Bible?
- What’s one thing you can do this week to “do what the Bible says”?

4th / 5th Grade

- Why do you think James compared hearing God’s Word to reading instructions but not following them?
 - What happens if we only *know* what’s right but don’t *do* it?
 - How does obeying God’s Word help you grow stronger in your faith?
 - What’s one area where you want to start living out what you’ve learned from the Bible?
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Activity Two: Mirror, Mirror

Introduction for Leaders

This activity helps kids understand what James meant when he said the Bible is like a mirror. When we read God’s Word, it shows us what’s in our hearts — things we need to change or make right.

The goal is for kids to identify a simple, real way they can “do what it says” this week.

Supplies Needed

- Handheld mirrors (1 per group or 1–2 per small group)
 - Dry erase markers or washable markers
 - Paper towels or wipes
 - Optional for older kids: index cards and pens
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Activity Instructions

Step 1: Set the Scene

Hold up a mirror. Say:

“James says reading the Bible but not doing it is like looking in a mirror and forgetting what you look like. Why do we use mirrors? To see what’s out of place – and then fix it.”

Step 2: The Object Lesson

1. Pass a mirror around your group.
2. Ask: “When you look in a mirror, what kinds of things do you check or fix?” (hair, teeth, dirt on face, etc.)
3. Now hand out dry erase markers. Have each child write or draw something *on the mirror* that represents a wrong attitude or action (e.g., unkind words, selfishness, fear, lying, complaining).
4. Hold the mirror up again and say:

“When we read the Bible, it shows us things like this – things that need to change. But if we only look and never do anything, it’s like walking away with a messy face.”

Step 3: Wipe It Clean

Have kids use paper towels or wipes to clean the mirror.

As they do, say:

“When we obey God’s Word, it’s like wiping away what doesn’t belong. God helps us live clean and right before Him.”

Step 4: Live It Out

Ask: “What’s one thing you could ‘do’ this week because of what God’s Word says?”

Teaching Connection

“The Bible is like a mirror – it shows us what’s going on inside. But if we walk away without doing what it says, nothing changes. When we obey what we read, God helps us grow and live the way He wants.

Don’t just look in the mirror – fix what needs fixing. Don’t just read the Bible – live it out.”

Discussion Questions

Kinder / 1st Grade

- Why do we look in a mirror?
- What happens if you see something messy and don’t fix it?
- How does the Bible help us know what to fix in our lives?
- What’s one thing you can do this week to live out what the Bible says?

2nd / 3rd Grade

- Why do you think James compared the Bible to a mirror?
- What’s something God’s Word might show you that needs to change?
- How does it feel to “wipe away” what doesn’t belong?
- What’s one way you can do what the Bible says this week?

4th / 5th Grade

- How does the Bible show us both what’s wrong and what’s right in our hearts?
- Why do you think obeying God’s Word brings freedom and blessing, like James says?
- What’s one specific way you can “live it out” this week?
- How can you remind yourself to keep obeying what you’ve read in the Bible?

Read It and Do It: Instruction Sheet

1. Read every instruction before doing anything.
2. Stand up and say, "We're ready!"
3. Clap your hands three times.
4. Spin around one time.
5. Touch your toes.
6. Pat your head while saying, "Cookies are awesome."
7. Sit down, then stand back up.
8. Whisper the memory verse reference (James 1:22) to your partner.
9. High-five someone in your group.
10. Jump once on one foot.
11. If you followed instruction #1 carefully, sit down quietly, raise your hand, and do nothing else on this list.
12. Say your group name out loud in your best robot voice.
13. Make a funny face at your leader.
14. Count backward from 10 to 1.
15. Shout, "We did it!"