



BIBLE HABITS

CONVERSATION #4: APPLYING WHAT YOU READ

ICEBREAKER: THE BEST ADVICE YOU DIDN'T TAKE

To begin our conversation today, think about the best advice you've ever received that you didn't follow right away. It could have been advice about finances, health, relationships, or even something spiritual. What do you wish you could go back in time and do over?

- What made it hard to act on that advice at the time?
- How did delaying it or neglecting it affect you - or others?
- Looking back now, what do you wish you had done differently when you first heard it?

STUDY: LISTENING AND DOING

In this phase, it's easy to feel spiritually mature because you've heard sermons, watched teaching, or talked about Scripture. But Scripture is clear that growth doesn't come from hearing alone - it comes from responding. Spiritual children often walk away asking, "*What did I get from this?*" while mature disciples ask a different question: "*What am I going to do with this?*" The shift from hearing to doing is where real growth begins.

READ JAMES 1:22-25

As you listen and read along, underline or write down anything that stands out to you, and then note any clear action James is calling us to take.

- According to this passage, what happens when someone hears God's Word but doesn't act on it?
- Which part of the mirror illustration stands out to you most - and why?
- What's the difference between reading Scripture to feel encouraged and reading Scripture to be changed?
- According to this passage, where does blessing actually come from?
- James describes obedience as the path to freedom. Why do you think obedience often feels restrictive instead of freeing at first?

ACTIVITY: MIRROR, MIRROR

James uses the image of a mirror to show us the danger of hearing God's Word without responding to it. He warns that when we merely listen and do not do what it says, we deceive ourselves. James says this is like looking at your face in a mirror and then walking away without doing anything about what you saw. The Bible isn't meant just to show you who you are; it's meant to show you what needs to change. The problem isn't that we forget what we read - it's that we walk away unchanged.



Take a few minutes to read the passage carefully and honestly. As you read, treat these Scriptures like a mirror - not to judge yourself, but to see yourself clearly. When you finish, choose **one letter** that best describes where you are *right now* in relation to what this passage calls for:

- **W — Working on it:** You're actively trying to live this out, even if it's not perfect yet.
- **N — Neglecting it:** You know it matters, but you haven't been practicing it.
- **O — Obeying it:** This has become a consistent pattern in your life, and you can see real fruit.

	Matthew 6:19-24		James 3:2-12		Ephesians 4:29-32
	Matthew 5:21-24		Romans 12:1-2		Matthew 6:33
	Luke 9:23-25		John 15:1-8		Colossians 3:1-17
	Psalm 139:23-24		Philippians 2:3-8		1 Peter 5:6-7
	Titus 3:1-8		1 Corinthians 9:6-8		Romans 12:9-18

James reminds us that the goal isn't simply to look into the mirror of God's Word - it's to respond to what we see. Hearing shows us the truth, but obedience is what shapes our lives. So instead of walking away unchanged, we're going to end with a simple challenge that helps us take one clear step from **hearing** to **doing** this week.

CHALLENGE: 24-HOUR OBEDIENCE

Your challenge for this week is to use the Scriptures above—and your responses to them—to move from simply reading God's Word to actually obeying it. Each day, choose one passage you marked with a W or an N. For the next 24 hours, intentionally focus on living out what that passage calls you to do, as best as you can. The following day, choose a different passage and repeat the process. At the end of the week, share with your discipleship partner(s) what it was like to intentionally practice obedience in these areas.