

Read.Pray.Worship.Live.

Bible Study Method

A Sample Study
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Read the Text

James 1:19-27

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Pray the Text

Gracious heavenly Father,

Thank you for your word and the truth that you reveal to me in the Bible. Every time I read the Bible it reveals more of who you are and shows me just how much I need to change to be conformed into the image of your beloved son, Jesus. I thank you for the words that you had James write to the Jews who had been scattered abroad. I can relate to their plights on so many levels and I am convicted of my sin. Far too often I am slow to hear, quick to speak, and quick to anger. That is the opposite of what you desire my actions to be. I sin against your word when I

speak when I should be listening, especially when I am receiving correction from others. I want to defend myself and my pride, instead of showing humility and admitting my faults. Help me to be more like your son who was quick to hear the words that you were speaking to him. He was slow to speak against his accusers, even remaining silent at times. And, in everything he did not allow his anger to cause him to sin. If I am to be angry, Lord, let me be angry at the same things that anger you, such as sin and evil. Do not let me become angry when I am offended because that does not reflect who you are or who I am as your son. Your word is able to both save and cleanse my soul, so please let it do that in my life. I repent of my sin and ask that you would allow your righteousness to shine in my life.

Help me to be a doer of your word. Let me saturate my life with your word as I study it, but help me to apply all that I read. It does no good to spend my life studying the Bible and not have it transform my life. Do not let me forget the truths of your word that I have studied, but allow them to motivate godly living. There are so many people who go to church on Sundays and hear the gospel preached but they don't let it change their lives. Even Christians do the same. Don't let that be me. Help me to internalize for the purpose of living it out. When I look in the mirror I want to see you, not myself. And I thank you, Lord, for showing me in this passage what it means to live this out. It means doing good toward others and showing them the same grace, mercy, and love that you showed me. Not only that, but it also means abstaining from sin. Let these be my motivation. Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are loving you and loving others, which is summed up in this verse. I love you by not sinning, and I love others by sharing your love and character.

Thank you again for the truth of your word. I humbly submit my life to you and pray that you would help me to daily walk in this truth. Don't let this be something I read and forget; let it be my life and worship to you. I love you, Lord, and bless your name.

In Jesus' name I present this prayer to you. Amen.

Worship with the Text

This passage shows me the holiness of God because of his desire for me to put away my sin and wickedness. Those things do not represent his character; instead, he is pure and upright in his actions. I also see his compassion in that part of living out his word is caring for widows and

orphans. God also desires to bless me if I would live according to his word. God's word is also perfect, which reflects his character and shows the standard by which he calls me to live. If his law (the Bible) is perfect, that means I should be able to trust it as the rule of my life.

Live Out the Text

There are many ways that I can apply this text to my life, particularly in my actions toward others. I need to be ready to hear what others have to say, especially what God says in the Bible, and slow to speak. My mouth can get me into lots of trouble, so it is to my benefit to make sure the words that are coming out my mouth are wholesome and edifying to others, instead of sinful and filled with anger. Immediately I can apply this in my relationship with my wife and kids, since they are the ones that see my sin front & center.

I also need to be more watchful of my life, making sure that it does not contradict what I'm reading in the Bible. I need to be intentional about applying everything I read, instead of forgetting it as soon as I close my Bible. If I see others in need and I have the means to help, I should be ready to lend a helping hand so that God's love is put on display.