

Ben Geib

Counselor

James 1:22-25

"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does."



Discussion for the younger kids:

The Bible tells us many good things we are to do like love others as we love ourselves, be kind to each other, worship only God, tell others about Jesus. James tells us that we are to not only listen to the Bible, but to do what it says. It is easy to read about being kind, but sometimes it is hard to be kind – especially when others are not being kind to us. But if we are willing to be kind, God will see that and will be happy with what we do.

For Further Discussion:

Recently in my quiet times I've been going through the book of James. There is so much good fruit packed into such a little book of the Bible, and this verse stuck out to me in a major way. Recently, I have become aware of a few frustrations that I have with my Sunday School Youth class. We read books by famous and influential church leaders like David Platt or Francis Chan that are inspiring and life-changing, and we watch videos and listen to sermons of more speakers and pastors. Now, all this is good and well, but the problem that I see is that a lot of times we hear and read these challenging things, inspiring us to do great things for the Kingdom of God and daily sacrifice ourselves to make more of God, and we say to ourselves, "Wow! How awesome would it be to live like that?", or, "Man, I would love to just drop everything here and go serve in another country for a period of time", and it's great that we think those things, but until we actually do those things and leave behind the comfortable lifestyle in America and seek after a more fulfilling and sacrificial life in Christ, we just sit around and talk about it. It's like a father telling his child to go clean

their room. He can tell them until he runs out of breath, "Son, go clean your room!" but until that child actually does get up and cleans his room, what good is it? Such is our life with Christ. We can read these books, listen to the speakers, and even read the most challenging verses in the Bible, but until we actually apply it to our lives, give of ourselves, and pick up the cross and follow Christ no matter where he calls us or what he asks of us, then what good is it? My challenge for you today is to continually seek ways that you can give of yourself. Show love to others and take time out of your day to lend a helping hand. At the time it may be hard, it may cost us time, money, or even both, and we may not always be comfortable or safe, but in the end I guarantee you, it will be well worth it.

If you would like to ask Ben more about his devotional, you can send an [email](#) to him at camp.