

Hearing and Doing

St James 1:19–27

“Remember this, my dear friends! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry. Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose. So get rid of every filthy habit and all wicked conduct. Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts, which is able to save you.

Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. If you listen to the word, but do not put it into practice you are like people who look in a mirror and see themselves as they are. They take a good look at themselves and then go away and at once forget what they look like. But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.

Do any of you think you are religious? If you do not control your tongue, your religion is worthless and you deceive yourself. What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world.”



Collect of the Day:

(Say this prayer with your family)

O LORD, from whom all good things do come: Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

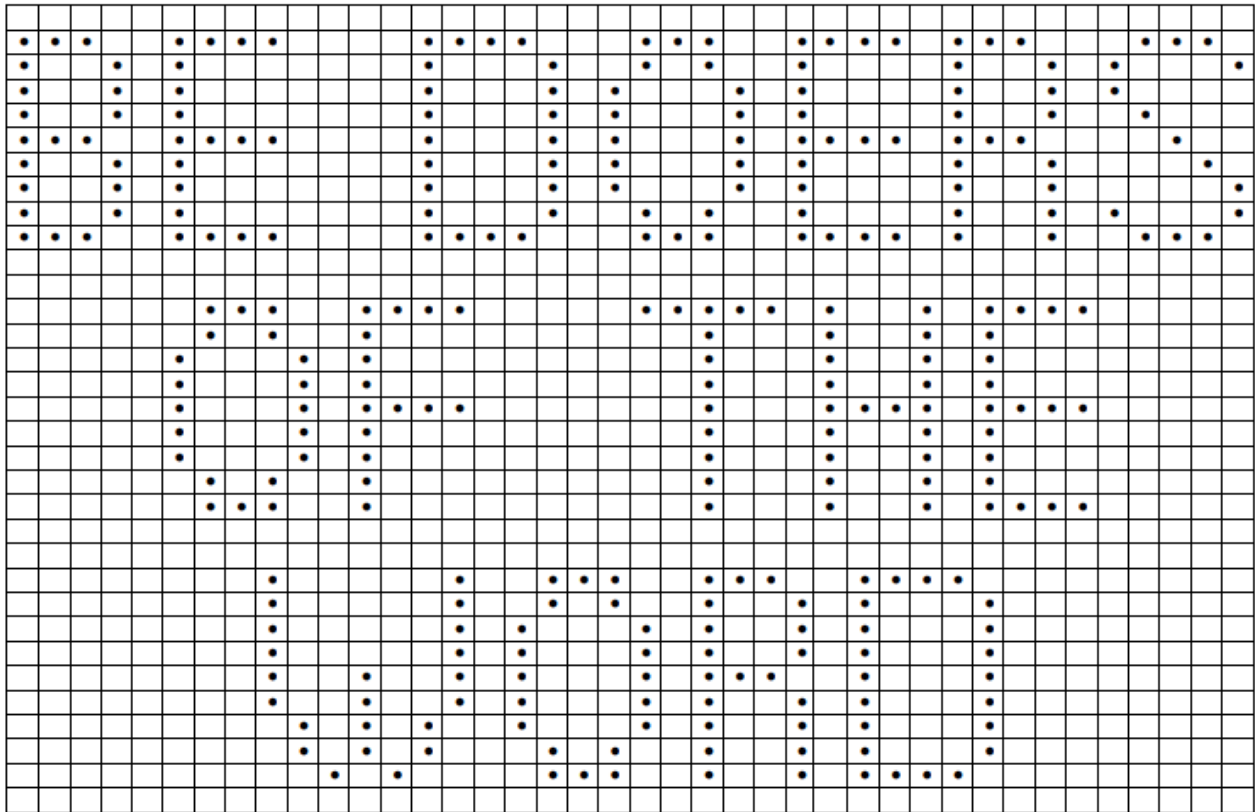
“Do not simply listen and then forget”

This reading comes from the first chapter of a letter written by one of the first Christians, Saint James, who wrote to members of the early Church, shortly after the death of Jesus. In this letter he gives us lots of great advice for how to live our life in a way that will please God.

He says that Christians should avoid getting angry. Is this an easy thing to achieve? No! But he reminds us that getting angry does help God’s plan. Instead, “everyone must be quick to _____, but slow to _____ and slow to become _____.”

James talks a lot about God’s word and God’s law. The first line of Saint John’s Gospel says, “In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” The Word—Jesus—is God. Where can we find the word of God? In the Bible! When we read the Bible we learn all about God and we learn about what God wants from us. The Bible contains God’s law. It is full of commandments (rules from God) about how we should live our lives. Jesus said “If you love me, you will obey my commandments.” In order to know how to live our lives according to God’s law we must read the Bible often.

However, it is not enough just to read or to listen. James says we must put what we read into action. God wants us to follow His commandments but that can feel overwhelming since there are hundreds of them in the Bible! Jesus tells us that the law of God can be summed up by these two things: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “Love your neighbour as you love yourself.” Saint James gives us an example of how we can put this into action. He says God wants us to “take care of orphans and widows in their suffering.” In other words, help those who are in need, especially those who are often left out or ignored in society.



Colour in each square with a dot to read the hidden Bible verse.

What does it say?

What are some ways you can follow this Bible verse? (*Be specific!*)

Ways I can show love to God:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Ways I can show love to my neighbour (family, friends, community, strangers):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name: _____

Hearing and Doing

P	U	A	B	G	N	C	S	H	S	A	Y	G	M	Q	G	E	M
G	F	N	L	U	N	R	P	S	D	V	K	E	D	L	S	W	I
O	J	G	E	N	E	O	E	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	W	R
D	E	E	S	U	P	R	A	C	T	I	C	E	V	L	E	P	R
S	S	R	S	C	Y	I	K	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	K	E	O
L	U	F	E	A	J	E	N	C	E	S	C	J	G	L	N	R	R
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W	V	D	H	E	N	V	W	O	R	D	L	A	W	S	P	E	S
Y	V	S	L	A	U	Z	V	V	N	E	D	A	N	T	B	C	H
Z	B	I	B	L	E	K	A	L	N	L	E	T	T	E	R	T	I
S	L	C	G	E	N	U	I	N	E	Q	D	L	G	N	O	D	D
B	T	M	T	D	C	Y	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	G	W	N	Y

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANGER

BIBLE

BLESSED

CARE

CONTROL

GENUINE

GOD

JAMES

JESUS

LAW

LETTER

LISTEN

MIRROR

PERFECT

PRACTICE

PURPOSE

RELIGION

SLOW

SPEAK

WORD