

**Dig Deeper @Home – “I Pledge Allegiance ...”
Complement to lesson on 04/18/21 – “To God over Riches”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Share a time when you received favoritism. How did you feel? Share about a time when someone else received favoritism and you didn't? How did you feel?

MEMORIZE – James 3: 17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

READ James 1:9 – 2:13

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn't you like?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated, contrasted, or compared?
3. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
4. Several times James warns about being deceived (v16, v22).
 - a. What are these deceptions that he is warning about?
 - b. And what are we to do in order to avoid being deceived?
 - c. In what ways are you being deceived in these ways?
5. Temptations happen to all of us (even Jesus) and James has some guidance for us when we experience temptation in life
 - a. First, what does James tell us not to do when we experience temptation?
 - b. What does James say is the root or cause of temptation?
 - c. What does James say will help us endure temptation? (check out v 18 & 25)
6. What does James say is worthless religion? (v26) How about pure and undefiled religion? (v27)
 - a. Based on your past week, which one do you fall into?
 - b. If you're not happy with your answer, what needs to change?

Experiential activity – Reflections in a Spoon

James tells us to be “doers of the word and not hearers only.” He goes on to say that those who don’t are deceiving themselves and are like someone who looks intently into a mirror yet forgets what they look like. If you go and look in a mirror, you may find this a strange passage. Most mirrors reflect really well and a mere glance shows us everything we need to see. To understand James, go and get a spoon and use it as a mirror. Try doing your hair in the reflection of a spoon. Or put on makeup if you wear it. Or check to see if there is anything in your teeth. Now what if you looked into God’s word with this same kind of intention, time and focus? If we did, James is saying, we wouldn’t just not forget what we read, but we would openly live it out in our lives as well. So go and do that this week ... spend time in God’s word ... intentional, focused time in God’s word and live it out as you go.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mECQOt2z7mw>

His Mercy is More – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1GiZL60c80>

Refiner’s Fire - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQclw7Ptawc>

We give thee but thine Own - (Mennonite Hymnal #364)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB24dBXgZHI>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

As you go through this week, may the Holy Spirit enable you to give you full and ultimate allegiance to Christ and His Kingdom. May the Spirit fill you with His thoughts and cause you to walk in His ways, for His glory, the advancement of His gospel and the good of those around you. Amen