

## SWEET LITTLE LIES

### Part 2: It's the Thought that Counts

**Objective:** To help us recognize that following Jesus requires us to imitate him with our lives.

**Read together:**

***Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.***

**James 1:22-25**

***“If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth.***

**John 14:15-17**

- When you hear, "It's *the thought that counts*" what comes to your mind?
- In James chapter 1, we read, "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." How can "merely listening" cause us to deceive ourselves? When we only listen to/read scripture but don't apply it to our lives, what sorts of things can we be deceived about?
- When you hear the phrase "apply the bible to your life," what comes to mind? What do you think that looks like?
- Have you ever discovered that the more you imitate someone, the more you become like them? What sorts of habits, patterns of speech, phrases or other activities have you picked up from imitating or spending large amounts of time with someone else?
- The pastor said that true followers follow the example of Jesus. What things did Jesus say or do that we need to imitate? How would those play out in real life circumstances?
- Have someone read John 14:15-17 out loud for the group. How did Jesus describe the Holy Spirit in this passage? Have you ever thought about what role the Holy Spirit plays in shaping your faith?

**Final Thought:** It's time to stop talking about following Jesus and begin following his example in your daily life.

**This Week:** Identify one area of life where you are not truly following Jesus and take one action step that will help you follow his example.

