



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

25 FEBRUARY

BLESS: LISTEN WITH CARE

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXTS:

James 1:19-25

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 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.

Mark 4:13-20

13 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

GETTING STARTED

Activity: why not go round the room and listen to how everyone has found the BLESS series so far and ask whether they’ve got any good news stories to share.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Why do you think that Jesus and James emphasise so strongly the importance of listening? Do you think you see it as equally important?
2. What are the things that the passages tell us to avoid or get rid of in order to listen carefully to God?
3. Verse 20 tells us that good soil ‘hears the word’, ‘accepts it’ and ‘produces fruit’. What might this look like practically in our lives? [You could encourage one another by identifying fruit that you see in their lives]
4. What do you think God has been saying to you recently through His word? What things are you struggling to understand that you’ve read recently?

NEXT STEPS & PRAYER

5. What positive outcomes do you think listening carefully to someone can have? Who could you make more of an effort to spend time listening to?
6. What bad habits do we need to avoid when listening to people? What good habits make us better listeners?

COMING UP

iWitness | 4 Feb -18 March
Belonging | 4 – 18 March
Prayer Meeting | 14 March
Vision & Giving Day | 18 March
Palm Sunday | 25 March
Good Friday | 30 March
Easter Sunday | 1 April
