



## Week 2 Overview

In Our Religion  
James 1:22–27

### Opening (30 minutes)

The first 30 minutes of small group sets the tempo. While this time is casual, it is important. Use the time to connect and catch up. If you have new people, this is the ideal time to get to know them and help them feel comfortable.

### Discussion (45 minutes)

If we are honest, most small group leaders will admit they talk too much in their group. As the leader, your role is to ask good questions to facilitate a meaningful conversation. It's best to limit the number of questions you ask and allow the conversation to evolve on its own. Sometimes this includes rephrasing a question or redirecting your question to members who need to be drawn out. It's important to affirm what members say and redirect the conversation when it becomes hijacked or if it spirals into criticism.

### Breakout (45 minutes)

Breakout isn't a support group or social club. It is a place to come alongside one another in big and small ways. Here, men gather with men and women gather with women for accountability and prayer to bear each other's burdens and pursue spiritual growth together. It's a place to be known, accepted and have opportunities to minister to one another.

### Read

In verses 2–21, James focuses on things to know as a believer. Verses 22–27 form a pivotal transition in the letter as James shifts from the theme of "knowing" to "doing."

Read James 1:1–27 as a group. After reading verses 22–27 ask, *What stands out in this passage? What's the main point?*

### Talk

It's easy to jump to application when James focuses on things we should do as believers. But actions come from motivations; our *doing* is tied to our *thinking*. As you discuss this passage with your small group, what does James want us to know?

*What kind of mindset is James trying to create among the church?*

### Think

While James gives specific examples, such as caring for widows and orphans, James is more concerned with instilling a mindset for how we should think and respond biblically. Don't get hung up on the examples as the direct application. Think in broad terms as the kind of people we should *become*.

For example: Rather than focusing solely on ministry to widows and orphans, the broader questions are...

*What does it look like to love people who are hurting? What does it look like to go through your day watching your tongue? What does it look like to remain unpolluted from the world?*