



focus.

Spend the next few minutes helping your group focus their attention on God.

sing | together

Reckless Love, by Cory Asbury

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsoV-oEkFcY>

read | together

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

(Francis, 1182-1226)

read.

Read the passage for today aloud as a group. Then ask each individual to reread the passage and mark anything God illuminates.

James 1:19-25

19 My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger, 20 for human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness. 21 Therefore, ridding yourselves of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, humbly receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works — this person will be blessed in what he does. (CSB)

discuss.

Lead your group through the following discussion questions. Help them thoughtfully reflect and respond to God's direction.

| 1 | Did anything stand out to you as we read our passage for today?

| 2 | Notice the progression in our passage from hearing to doing.

According to verse 19, what is the first step in the process of hearing and doing? What is the correlation between listening and humbly receiving the implanted word? Why is listening to God/others so difficult?

| 3 | How does listening prevent anger? Have you ever been guilty of jumping too quickly to anger because you chose not to listen first? What did you learn?

| 4 | For Jews, hearing and obeying were synonymous. (See the etymology of the word "Shema" in the Old Testament) If you heard from God and chose not to obey it was assumed that either you didn't hear God or you were simply in rebellion against God. Jesus himself affirmed that love for Him was found in obedience.

Can you be a mature Christian without obedience?

| 5 | How can we practically work out the call to be "doers of the word" in the mundane and magnificent moments of real life? How can we move this charge from the pages of James to our everyday lives?

pray.

Direct your attention now to listening prayer. Follow the prompts below as you guide your group to hear and obey God.

| 1 | Spend a moment with the passage we just read. Ask God if there is anything to which He might call you? Ask God to be specific? Respond in prayer.

| 2 | Talk to God about your relationship with His word. Ask Him if there is an area of obedience He is calling you to regarding His word. Respond in prayer.