

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read James 1:17-18 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

### **CONNECT Group study questions, James 1:19-21**

**April 6, 2014**

**Title: How to effectively receive God's Word**

**Read to the group:** "Is this going to be on the test?" is probably not the kind of feedback a classroom teacher wants, but it's the thought going through most students' minds. Don't be too hard on the students, though. What teacher hasn't said something like, "Listen up, now, you'll be asked about this on the test."? Frequently my wife, who is a teacher, by the way, will be talking to me from the other room. I can hear her, but haven't a clue about what she's saying. I know in a day or two I'll hear her say something like, "...but I told you yesterday. You must be losing your hearing." Okay, that may be true, but when I hear her, I do wonder—sometimes out loud—"Is this going to be on the test?" There's a difference between hearing sound and hearing to understand. After telling us in verse 2 that there will be tests, James advises us in verse 19 to be quick to hear—pay attention, listen, understand. Is there any doubt? This will be on the test.

**Question:** Verse 19 begins with, "This you know...." What is James referring to that they should already know?

**Question:** "Quick to hear" means to listen intently, don't miss a word. What do you suppose James wants us to listen to? Our spouse? Our children? TV News? Peppy's sermon? (No, but you're getting warmer.)

**Question:** 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us what Scripture is good for, and verse 17 tells us what it does. Try to match James' three commands—quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger (including verse 20)—with the points in 2 Timothy 3:16 for which Scripture is profitable. **Facilitator: If we don't listen, we can't be taught; if we spout our opinions (speak), we equate them with the inspired Word; if we are reprovved and corrected, we could become angry or resentful and this does not achieve God's righteousness.**

**Question:** Why is it important to "put aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness?"

**Question:** Describe the attitude of the ideal recipient of the Word of God. What preparations would you make before receiving teaching from Scripture, knowing that it is able to save your soul?