



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of April 15, 2024

1. A wise man once said, “Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it.” Are Christians exempted from the challenges, adversities, and challenges of life? What would you say is the connection between our Christian faith and the way we respond to challenges?
2. What are three critical qualities to facing hardships according to James in 1:19-20? What does Proverbs 15:1 say about angry words? On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the most godly response), where do you typically fall when it comes to these areas? Go ahead, grade yourself:
 - Swift to hear (1-10)
 - Slow to speak (1-10)
 - Slow to become angry in hard situation (1-10)
3. Brainstorm together: What do farmers typically do to prepare their land for the planting of crops? What impediments or hindrances to growth will they seek to remove? What do Christians need to remove from their lives in order to receive “...the implanted Word”? (verse 21)
4. What did Jesus teach about being a “doer” of the Word and not just a hearer? Read His famous parable in Matthew 7:24-29 before you answer. What does Jesus’ brother James say about Christians who only listen but never live out (obey) what they hear? (James 1:22-25)
5. In verse 26, James writes that the way Christians talk (our conversations and communication) has a direct connection to the quality/genuineness of our faith. Why are a person’s words such a window to who they really are? (see also Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45). If you saw a Christian friend cuss out her boss with fiery expletives, what might you conclude about her Christian life or testimony?
6. Widows and orphans were some of the most vulnerable and helpless people in the first-century world. Who are the people groups in our day who are broken, vulnerable, and in need? How can Christians make a difference for these hurting people— individually (yourself) and corporately (your church)?
7. What does it mean to stay “*unspotted from the world*”? (James 1:27). How can you live, move, work, and be active as a Christian in today’s secular culture without being corrupted by it? (see also Romans 12:2) Does Jesus expect us to live in a cave or a cloister and avoid the world entirely? (see John 17:15-18) What practical steps/behaviors can Christians observe to avoid the temptations of a sinful culture?

Christianity isn't just how you rejoice on Sunday, it's how you respond on Monday.