

CAMP

THROUGH THE

Entire Bible

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WEEK 12

Family CAMP devotions are a way to come together as a family and interact with God's Word. We will go through the entire Bible together this summer! Don't miss the opportunity to CAMP with your family each week using this simple family devotion guide.

How do we CAMP as a family?

Come together
Access God's Word
Make conversation
Pray



C: Come Together

Come together and remove distractions. Prepare your heart and mind to hear from God's Word together today by thinking about this saying: "Actions speak louder than words." What does that mean? Is it more important to know right from wrong or to do right instead of wrong?

Let's look together today at what God's Word says to us about believing and doing.

A: Access God's Word

Access God's Word by reading today's Bible passage together and the daily devotion aloud.

Open your Bible and read aloud James 1:19-25.

Being Doers of the Word

It can be really tempting to look at the Bible as a long list of things God does or does not want us to do. While God certainly uses Scripture to encourage or forbid certain behaviors, the Bible is so much more than that!



This passage definitely has some firm instructions. In verse 19, James says we all should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. Following a checklist of this advice will certainly help us to be kinder people. However, if we simply add those items to our lists of dos and don'ts, we've missed the point.

As followers of Jesus, we should be quick to apply these wise words to our lives. More importantly, we should understand why. James gives clear instructions again in verses 22-24 as he tells believers to not just hear the Word, but to be doers of the Word.

How do we DO the Word? There's a saying that standing in a garage doesn't make you a car anymore than going to church makes you a Christian. Going to church is a great step, and it is something we should absolutely do! Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet together with other Christians: "...not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some...". However, it is our responsibility and the wise counsel of these verses that we go further than just hearing God's Word. We must put the words into practice and become doers.

In order to put God's Word into practice, we need to know what it says. In order to know what God's Word says, we need to spend time reading our Bibles. Most of all, we need to pray that God would create a desire in our hearts to make Him the focus of our lives. If we don't approach these tasks with hearts ready to be doers of the Word, then these things just become a to-do list to check off. We may become kinder people, but not necessarily people who are trying to do God's will, living to serve Him and make Him known. This is why being a doer matters! It is not so that we can be more in favor with God or make Him love us more- He already loves us perfectly and completely (see Romans 5:8)! When we have received that perfect love and grace, in turn we surrender our lives to Him- not just knowing the Word, but choosing to live it out.

And what's the best part of all? As we rely on the Holy Spirit to help us become doers of the Word and as our actions come into line with God's Will, God's Word promises freedom and blessing! God shapes us more and more into His image as we get to know Him, understand His perfect plans for us through His Word, and align our lives with Him! Being a doer is not a burden when you are relying on the Holy Spirit alive in you! Never forget the hope and privilege it is to have that kind of relationship with God. Let's choose to be doers, not just hearers!

M: Make Conversation

Make conversation around today's Bible passage and devotion by asking the questions provided. The goal of this time is to discover together the truths from God's Word and the daily devotion. Think of ways that you and your family can put this truth into action.

1. Why does James 1:20 say we should be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger"? (Because the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.)
2. When you are sick and the doctor gives you medicine, does it heal you if you take the bottle of medicine home and look at it? Or do you have to take the medicine to let it work in your body? How is this similar to being a *hearer* versus a *doer* of the Word? (You take the medicine! If you just *hear* about the medicine and don't do what the doctor says, you won't get better. We must also make a habit of *doing* God's Will.)
3. What are some things we can do to help us become doers of the Word? (Praying for God's Will, reading our Bibles, inviting God into every part of our lives, applying wise advice from Scripture.)
4. Why is it important to be a doer of the Word instead of a to-do list of the Word person? (God knows our hearts. Our motivation matters. He wants our obedience to come from a heart of love and gratitude, not out of a sense of obligation.)



P: Pray

Guide your family through a prayer to end your time together.

Praise God that He created us with the desire to draw near to Him.

Thank God for giving us wise counsel in His Word.

Confess any tendency to go through the motions instead of approaching God with the right motivations.

Ask God to help you desire Him and His Will above all else.

Ask God to help others come to a saving relationship with Jesus and become fellow doers of the Word.

Family CAMP Activities

1. Make a bookmark for your Bible. Find creative ways to decorate it, and list all of the things we talked about in this devotion that can help you be a doer of the Word! Use it to mark your place in your Bible, and read over it each time you open your Bible to study God's Word.
2. Draw a self portrait. To get started, grab a mirror. Take turns looking in the mirror and ask each person who they see! (Of course they will say they see themselves!) Relate this back to James 1:23-24 we studied today. Talk about what it might be like to keep forgetting what you look like and how crazy that would be! Why do we remember what we look like? Because we look at ourselves every day, multiple times a day! Have each person take time to draw a self portrait. Be as creative or simplistic as you want to be with this! At the bottom of each piece of art, write verse 25 as a reminder that we need to look into the Word of God daily and consistently!