

### 3. LIVING PROOF

#### REFLECTION

Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.

1. Think of one person who truly exemplifies godliness. How has that person's life been an example to you?

#### BIBLE READING

Read James 1:19–27 from the NCV or the NKJV.

##### NCV

<sup>19</sup>My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak. Do not become angry easily, <sup>20</sup>because anger will not help you live the right kind of life God wants. <sup>21</sup>So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup>Do what God's teaching says; when you only listen and do nothing, you are fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup>Those who hear God's teaching and do nothing are like people who look at themselves in a mirror. <sup>24</sup>They see their faces and then go away and quickly forget what they looked like. <sup>25</sup>But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God's perfect law that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God's teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.

<sup>26</sup>People who think they are religious but say things they should not say are just fooling themselves. Their "religion" is worth nothing. <sup>27</sup>Religion that God accepts as pure orphans and widows in their trouble, and to and without fault is this: caring for orphans

##### NKJV

<sup>19</sup>So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup>for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>26</sup>If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. <sup>27</sup>Pure and undefiled religion keep oneself unspotted from the world.

or widows who need help, and keeping yourself free from the world's evil influence.

## DISCOVERY

Explore the Bible reading by discussing these questions.

2. How does this passage describe living a good life?
  
3. List some of the ways people can deceive themselves.
  
4. How does this passage describe people who do not obey God's word?
  
5. How does God bless those who study and obey his Word?
  
6. How can you practice "pure and undefiled religion"?
  
7. In what ways should a person's life change after conversion?
  
8. How does the world pressure us to disobey God's Word?
  
9. List some practical ways to protect yourself from the world's influence.

## PRAYER

Father, help us to hear your voice amidst the manifold voices of the world. Help us to put into practice the timeless truths found in your Word. Most of all, Father, help us remember that you have set us free—free from the lures of this world. Thank you for your promise that when the Son sets us free, we are free indeed.

## JOURNALING

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.

How does God help me remove sin from my life?

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

10. In what ways has your life changed since your conversion?

11. Why do we sometimes find it difficult to do what we know is right?

12. In what ways does your life demonstrate to others that you are a Christian?

For more Bible passages on obedience, see Leviticus 19:2; Acts 5:29; Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 9:13; Titus 3:1; Hebrews 12:13, 14; 1 Peter 1:14; 1 John 3:24; 2 John 6.