



## WEEKEND RESOURCES | MAY 21, 2023

Week One | Quick to Listen

USE THESE QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROCESS THE MESSAGE IN YOUR PERSONAL STUDY TIME OR WITH YOUR GROUP.

**Message Recap:** We all know what it's like to be hurt by someone who just couldn't listen long enough to understand us. Maybe in their attempt to be right, they damaged a relationship that could have been saved with patience and curiosity. You've probably been on the other side of that coin too. Taking the verbal offense may have won the argument, but you lost relationally. What if we didn't settle for being right but tried to make things right instead? The longer we listen, the more we learn, and the better chance we have of protecting ourselves from our own big mouths.

### » Main Points

- Quick to Listen, Slow to speak
- Don't settle for being right: make things right.

### » Getting Started

- We've all heard it said, "Never talk about politics, sex, money, and religion at the dinner table." What area do you think brings up the most conflict in your family or with your friends?

### » Observation

- Read and reflect on James 1:19-21
- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?



- Take some time this week to have a conversation with a neighbor, co-worker, or friend. See if, during the conversation, you can talk less than you listen. What a great way to truly learn something about the person you're talking to.



- Read James 1:19-21. Imagine you were trying to summarize these verses for a friend. What would you say in one or two sentences to explain what James was communicating?
- God doesn't want us to be right at one another but right with one another. Who do you need to be right with currently? Describe the tensions in that relationship.
- Jesus didn't come to be right. He had every right answer, but he came to reconcile men and women to God and to reconcile us to one another. Think of a few words that describe Jesus' approach and discuss how these characteristics can help guide your most difficult conversations.



- Words carry weight. This week have a conversation with your family about how you can use your words to build each other up. Research shows it takes about 3.5 positive affirmations to outweigh 1 negative comment. If your family uses hurtful words this week, try having that person say 3-4 positive affirmations!

### » Next Steps and Prayer

- This week, handwrite James 1:19-20 and place it somewhere you tend to be "quick to speak." When you feel the need to speak first, read the words you wrote from James and put them into practice.
- Close by praying for God to give you the discipline to slow down and listen when facing conflict.