

## Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read James 1:22-25 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 1:22-25**

**April 13, 2014**

**Title: Doing the Word**

**Read to the group:** I'm older than I used to be. Duh! That's obvious, you say. No, I mean REALLY older than I used to be. Like *who's-that-guy-in-my-bathroom-mirror-looking-back-at-me* older than I used to be.

A few things about that guy in the mirror he can change, and some will take time. Some things won't ever change. For example, he must have a perfect head, because God decided to remove his hair for the world to admire. Not much can be done about that. On the other hand, there's this bulge at his waist. Used to be he could 'pinch an inch.' Now it's more like 'grab a slab.' That, he can do something about, but no matter how dedicated he is today, he's going to look the same tomorrow morning. And there are a few routine items—he could comb and trim the hair he still has, especially clip that wild one sticking out of his eyebrow. To be honest, I'd like to walk away and forget what that guy in my mirror looks like. I'll do what I can for him, but as for the rest, he'll have to believe he's covered by grace.

**Question:** Who among you has the courage to name a few things you saw in the mirror this morning that needed work? Which ones will take some time to correct? And what did you decide you could do nothing about? **Facilitator: Try to have fun with this.**

**Question:** Verse 22 divides people who receive the Word of God into two categories: people who hear and do, and people who hear and don't. If you were in the second category, in what ways would you be deluding yourself?

**Question:** Back to the mirror, but this time the mirror is the Word of God, which is profitable for reproof and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). How does the Word of God 'reprove' you? Does an actual mirror 'reprove' you? Does the Word of God 'correct' you? Does an actual mirror 'correct' you? **Facilitator: The thought here is that the mirror of the Word reproves (reveals the flaws), but it is the doer of the Word who corrects.**

**Question:** Can you find any other passages in Scripture that separate doers of the Word from hearers only? **Facilitator: Matthew 25:31-46 is one, and just before it the parable of the talents.**

**Question:** Men: Why is it easy for a man to look at himself in the mirror and immediately forget what kind of person he is? (The word translated 'man' in verse 23 is specifically male and does not include female.) Women: Why do you suppose James didn't include women? Do you think it is easier for a man to forget what he sees in the mirror than it is for a woman? **Facilitator: My Bible note for this verse says it may be women are more sensitive by nature, so men especially need this exhortation to carefully respond to what they see in the Word.**

**Question:** In verse 25 what must a man—and this applies to women—do to become blessed (happy, spiritually prosperous) in what he does? Offer some thoughts on how abiding in the law of liberty and being an effectual doer lead to Christ-likeness.