**Anything But Normal, Week 2**

**Scripture and Background Information for May 24-30.**

To prepare for your group discussion each week**,** group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD’S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week, we'll be looking at **James 1:19-25**. As already noted last week, James' focus is on how salvation affects the believer's life. Living as a believer is *anything but normal*. In the opening of the letter, James gives instructions on how to embrace and overcome temptation. Remember, James sees the wisdom of God as help for overcoming temptation (1:5). Now, James focuses on how the Word of God should influence the life of the believer.

**Information's for James 1:19-25**

Let your group work on the connection of James' warnings about trials/temptations (1:2+14) to the self-centered warnings of verse 19. These verses should be followed for every disputation, argumentation, or conflict situation Nevertheless, it seems that James is referring to the Word of God, which was applied in his warning of the previous paragraphs. The church should be quick to hear what God is telling it, without justifying, or getting angry to what He says.

Also, consider the connection of the verses 19-21 to the immediate context of verse 18. Verse 18 shows the spiritual beginning of the believer; our text shows how God's Word should continue to influence the believer's life.

James shows that real hearing of the Word of God produces something in the life of the believer. He sees no value in merely listening to the Word, without letting it penetrate our belief system. Here, it is helpful to stress the picture James is painting in verses 23-25. Comparing the words "*word and law*" to the word "*doers and does*" will help you get James's message abroad.

Remember, James writes to a church that is scattered abroad (1:1). He, as the pastor of the church, finds himself in a similar situation we face today. Scattered, and on their own, James' concern for the church is that they press on in their faith. He sees *faith*, not as an abstract concept. James's premise is: *Right faith leads to right thinking, and right thinking leads to right actions*.

**Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

 June 7 James 2:1-10

 June 14 James 3:3-6