

**Sunday, August 29, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – James 1:17-27  
“Avoiding Anger”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In groups of two or three, have participants discuss what actions, circumstances, or behaviors make them angry.

**James 1:17-27. Context.** The letter of James is an exhortation to Christians to live up to the faith they profess. Although it was written in an elegant Greek style, it was likely composed (perhaps in Aramaic) by James (as the letter itself claims), the brother of Jesus, who was the leader of the Christian community in Jerusalem after the resurrection. James gives clear and unambiguous counsel regarding how we are to behave towards one another. He insists that our religion is pure only when our deeds match our words, and that there is no room in a Christian life for the ways of the world – grasping, lying, and ignoring the needy.

**Read James 1:17-27**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read James 1:17-27 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

- What might it look like to be “quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger” (1:19)?
- What qualifies as wickedness? What might it look like to “rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness” (1:21)?
- Why might it be imperative to “welcome with meekness the implanted word” (1:21)?
- Who have you known who was a “doer of the word” (1:22)?
- What about the “perfect law . . . and perseverance” helps us experience blessing (1:25)?
- Why do you think James advocates “bridling” the tongue, without which their “religion is worthless”?

- Are you surprised by how James characterizes “religion that is pure and undefiled”? Why or why not?
- What might God be calling you to do as a response to this passage?

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God who has and continues to model love in action, help us be doers of your word. We acknowledge being doers does not earn your love, but rather expresses the love you are growing within us such that others might experience the liberty and freedom that comes through a saving relationship with you. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord’s Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.