

# Look In the Mirror!

*James 1:22-25*

## K-5 Joint Group Time

**Main Point** - Don't just listen to what God says, do it.

### Memory Verse

James 1:22 (the words '*and so deceive yourselves*' have been omitted from this verse)

Leader: *Do not* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the word* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do what it says.* (children repeat)

Leader: *James* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one twenty-two* (children repeat)

### Singing

Select 2/3 songs that emphasize God's words are written for us in the Bible, and how we are to listen and do what the Bible says.

### Listening vs. Listening and Doing Skits

- Have leaders perform the following skits.
- The children have to decide whether the person has listened or listened and acted on what they heard.

**Warning: be sure to let the children know they are skits (and that there is no fire at the time these skits are performed).**

Skit 1: Leader #1 runs in, tells Leader #2 that the building is on fire. Leader#2 nods, as if to say they have heard, but continues to read his/her book. Leader #1 urges him/her to act, but gets nowhere. Leader #1 gives up and exits.

Ask:

- *Did he/she listen?*  
(yes)
- *Did they do what he/she said?*  
(no)

Skit 2: Leader #1 runs in blowing a party horn/wearing a party hat and tells Leader #2 that there's a party in the next room and he/she is invited. Leader #2 immediately drops the book and both exit together.

Ask:

- *Did he/she listen?*  
(yes)
- *Did they do what he/she said?*  
(yes)

Conclusion:

- *People hear things, but it doesn't mean they do anything about it.*
- *God has spoken to us and it's all written down for us in the Bible.*
- *Some people hear what God has said, but do nothing about it.*
- *They keep living their own way.*
- *Nothing changes.*
- *And some people hear what God says and they change.*
- *They do what God says.*
- *Children, who are you?*
- *Do you listen but don't do anything about it?*
- *Or do you listen and do what God says?*

# Look In the Mirror!

*James 1:22-25*

## K-2 Group Time

**Main Point** - Don't just listen to what God says, do it.

### Mirror Game

Aim: for children to mirror (copy) everything the leader does.

- Stand leader so that each child can see him/her.
- Leader tells the children that they are going to act like a mirror to them. Whatever he/she does, the children have to mirror or do back.
- Leader slowly mimes different activities (cleaning teeth, brushing hair, scratching nose, crying...) and children mirror the action.
- Option: select a child to be the one to do the actions.

Conclusion:

- *When we look in the mirror we can see if our teeth are clean or if our hair is brushed.*
- *If we didn't have a mirror, we wouldn't be able to tell.*
- *The mirror tells us if we need to change something or if something is wrong.*
- *And it's very silly to look in a mirror, see that something is wrong, then walk away and do nothing about it.*

### Story Time

#### *Option 1*

Purchase a copy of the Jungle Doctor fable called, *Reflections of Hippo* or *The Monkey, Mirror and Red Paint* (both written by Paul White, available through Christian Bookshops). Both are stories about animals that are told the truth about their appearance by other animals in the jungle. In one of the stories, they don't believe it even when they see their reflection in a mirror. In the other story, they act on what they see. Either read or retell one of these stories. If retelling, use either a series of drawings or animal puppets and a silver sheet of cardboard as the mirror.

**Option 2**

Tell a story about an Australian animal who is told the truth by other animals in the bush about their appearance and don't believe it, even when they see their reflection in a mirror. Have the animal 'break' the mirror at the end of the story and stomp off into the bush. Use either a series of drawings or animal puppets to tell the story and a silver sheet of cardboard as the mirror. You could download a glass breaking sound effect from the internet and play it at the appropriate time during the story.

**Small Group Discussion**

Need: write the following statements onto cards to use at the end of this discussion with your group.

Statements:

- *we lie about each other*
- *we love things more than God*
- *we don't share what we've been given*
- *we hurt each other with the words we speak*
- *we start fights*
- *we like some people more than others*
- *we get angry quickly*
- *we are impatient*
- *we grumble*

Discuss:

1. *In the Children's Talk, what was wrong with the way Sam looked?*  
(his hair wasn't brushed, his shirt wasn't ironed and it was buttoned up wrongly, his face was dirty, he had two different shoes on)
2. *What did Sandy use to help Sam see what he really looked like?*  
(a mirror)
3. *Sam looked in the mirror and the mirror showed him what he was really like. But did Sam do the things the mirror told him?*  
(no, he walked away, did nothing, he disobeyed the mirror)
4. *In the Children's Talk, what was wrong with the way Sally*

*looked?*

(her hair wasn't brushed, her dress wasn't ironed and it was on backwards, her face was dirty, she had two different socks on)

5. *What did Sandy use to help Sally see what she really looked like?*

(a mirror)

6. *Sally looked in the mirror and the mirror showed her what she was really like. But did Sally do the things the mirror told her?*

(yes, she did what needed to be done, she obeyed the mirror)

7. *In the book of James chapter 1, it says that the Bible is like a mirror. As we get to know the Bible we can either obey what God says, or ignore what God says. We can choose to live God's way or we can choose not to change. What's one thing God tells us we do wrong that we need to change?*

(see conclusion for a list of things mentioned in the book of James)

Conclusion: place the cards (see beginning of this section) out one at a time and read what God says we are like in the book of James.

- *These are all the things the book of James tells us we need to change: we lie, we love things more than God, we...*
- *And we are silly if we hear what God says but do nothing about it.*
- *Let's pray that we will hear what God says and do what he says.*

## **Prayer Time**

Repeated Prayer

*Father God, – we thank you that – you have told us – in the Bible – how to live. – Please help us to listen – to what you say – and to do what you say. – Amen*

Individual Prayer

Ask the children choose one card and ask God to help them change in that area. For Kindergarten children, they may decide as

a group to pray about the same thing (ask God to help them say kind words and not hurting words).

**Divide the children into small groups and have them rotate through the following activities:**

### **Mirror Drawing**

- Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Find the stencil with the outline of a mirror and the title, *When I look into the mirror, this is what I look like... The Bible is like a mirror. We need to look into the mirror, the Bible, and do what it tells us to do. James 1:22-25* Make one copy per child on A4 paper.
- Provide a child safe mirror for the children to look into and draw a picture of what they see.

### **Sam or Sally Puppets**

- Provide each child with a small paper plate.
- Provide collage material for the children to create either Sam or Sally's head before they looked into the mirror.
- Attach a craft paddle pop stick when complete.

### **Mirror Game (repeated)**

Aim: for children to mirror (copy) everything the leader does.

- Stand leader so that each child can see him/her.
- Leader tells the children that they are going to act like a mirror to them. Whatever he/she does, the children have to mirror or do back.
- Leader slowly mimes different activities (cleaning teeth, brushing hair, scratching nose, crying...) and children mirror the action.
- Option: select a child to be the one to do the actions.

### **The Parable of the Two Sons**

- Read the parable using the book titled, *The Two Sons*, by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen (published by Marshall Pickering).

- Or, retell the parable using the script of the Children's Talk titled, *The Parable of The Two Sons* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Retell the parable using large puppets or soft toys.
- Provide felt boards and shapes for the children to create a picture of the parable before moving to the next activity.

## Look In the Mirror!

*James 1:22-25*

### 3-5 Group Time

**Main Point** - Don't just listen to what God says, do it.

#### Listening vs. Listening and Doing Skits

- Have children form groups or pairs and create skits, similar to those done by leaders in the K-5 Joint Group Time, about listening vs. listening and doing.
- Have each group/pair perform the skit.
- The audience needs to decide whether the person has just listened or listened and acted on what was heard.

Conclusion:

- *People hear things, but it doesn't mean they do anything about it.*
- *God has spoken to us and it's all written down for us in the Bible.*
- *Some people hear what God says, but do nothing about it.*
- *They keep living their own way.*
- *Nothing changes.*
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**Option 2**

Tell a story about an Australian animal who is told the truth by other animals in the bush about their appearance and don't believe it, even when they see their reflection in a mirror. Have the animal 'break' the mirror at the end of the story and stomp off into the bush. Use either a series of drawings or animal puppets to tell the story and a silver sheet of cardboard as the mirror. You could download a glass breaking sound effect from the internet and play it at the appropriate time during the story.

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Discuss:

1. *In the Children's Talk, what was wrong with the way Sam looked?*  
(his hair wasn't brushed, his shirt wasn't ironed and it was buttoned up wrongly, his face was dirty, he had two different shoes on)
2. *Did the mirror Sandy held up help Sam? Why not?*  
(no, he ignored what the mirror was telling him, he refused to change)
3. *Same mirror, same problem. Why was Sally different?*  
(Sally looked in the mirror and went off to change, she did what the mirror told her to do, brushed her hair, washed her face...)

Read James 1:22-25

4. *What is the command in verse 22?*  
(don't just listen, listen and do)
5. *What example do verses 23 to 25 give us to help us?*  
(a man looking in a mirror and walking away and doing nothing/forgetting what the mirror has told him; a man looking at a mirror and doing something about what the mirror has told him)

Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site). Find the stencil with a mirror and the title, *The Bible is like a mirror. We need to look into the mirror, the Bible, and do what it tells us to do. James 1:22-25*

Make one copy per child on A4 paper.

Ask the children to draw a person looking at themselves in the mirror and draw a thought bubble coming out of their head telling us what the person is thinking as they look at their reflection.

Be sure to get them to draw the reflection in the mirror. Example: an untidy man looking in the mirror and thinking, *I'm such a mess. Oh, well not to worry. Example: a untidy man looking in the mirror and thinking, I'm such a mess. Better stop and fix myself up!*

6. *The Bible is like a mirror. When we look in the Bible we find out how to live God's way. We can choose to obey what God says or to disobey. What's one thing God tells us in the Bible about how we are to live?*  
(see *Conclusion* for a list of things mentioned in the book of James)

**Conclusion:** place the cards (see beginning of this section) out one at a time and read what God says we are like in the book of James.

- *These are all the things the book of James tells us we need to change: we lie, we love things more than God, we...*
- *And we are silly if we hear what God says but do nothing about it.*
- *Let's pray that we will hear what God says and do what he says.*

## Prayer Time

- Ask the children to choose one card and ask God to help them change in that area.
- Ask God to help them listen and do what he says.

## Bible Reading Habits Survey

- Ask children to fill out the survey titled, *The Bible* (see page 13). Encourage them to be honest.
- They don't have to share what they write with others or write their names on it. Tell them you are going to collect the surveys to help you get to know the group.

Conclude:

- *If we are going to listen to God's Word and do what it says, then we need to read it for ourselves. Do you think it's important to read the Bible? Why?*

## Interview

- Prepare 1 or 2 children who you know read the Bible regularly (either on their own or with Mum/Dad).
- Interview child/children about their Bible reading habits.
  - *What they use to help them?*
  - *When they read it?*
  - *Why they read it?*

Application (in small groups):

- *Who has their own Bible at home?*
- *Do you read it by yourself?*
- *What's your favourite part of the Bible? Why?*

**Note: It would be great to show case a few good children's Bibles and Bible reading material for this age group, for both child and adult to look at and possibly buy.**

## Mirror Activity

Aim: for children to mirror (copy) everything their partner does.

- Ask children to find a partner.
- Stand opposite their partner.

- One of the pair moves, the other mirrors what he/she does.
- Suggestions: slowly mime different activities: cleaning teeth, brushing hair, scratching nose, crying...

Conclusion:

- *We need mirrors!*
- *They tell us if our hair needs brushing or our teeth aren't clean.*
- *The mirror tells us if need to change something or if something is wrong.*
- *And it's very silly to look in a mirror, see that something is wrong, then walk away and do nothing about it.*

## The Bible

1. What is the Bible?
2. Do you have your own Bible?
3. Who gave it to you?
4. Do you read the Bible
  - only at church
  - with Mum or Dad
  - on your own
5. Do you read the Bible
  - about once a week
  - a few times a week
  - almost every day
6. What helps you to read the Bible?
7. Do you find it hard to read the Bible? Do you know why it is hard?
8. Do you think it is important to read the Bible? If so why?
9. Would you like to read the Bible more than you are? If so, what would help you?