

# REAPING THE RESPONSIVE HEART-4

Grow From God's Word

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—will be blessed in what he does.  
- James 1:25

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.  
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17,  
*The Message*

In the parable of the sower and the soils, the good soil represents hearts that “eagerly embrace” and respond to God's word. Usually we think that Jesus was talking about four different kinds of people. But he may also have been describing how we willingly receive God's message in some areas of our life and resist it in others. God promises to bless the lives of those who, decide in *advance*, “Lord, I'm willing to do whatever you want me to do.”

## Welcome

Describe a grade school teacher that made a big impression on you (for good or ill).

## Worship

Ask everyone to share a meaningful verse (or two) from **Psalm 119**. Sing songs that reflect the psalmists delight and desire to obey God's Word. “Unto Thee, O Lord” (794), “Have Thine Own Way, Lord”(552), “Trust and Obey” (915).

## Word

### Read James 1:19-27

1. What exactly is the “righteous life that God desires” (vss 20, 27)? How is it produced? What is its opposite?
2. Verses 19-21 address the attitudes necessary for “good reception” of God's Word: be *careful* (vs 19a), be *calm* (vs 19b), be *clean* (vs 21), and be *compliant* (vs 21). How can the opposite of each of these attitudes [inattentiveness, anger, sin, and pride] keep us from hearing God's Word?
3. Which of these attitudes would be a “growth area” for you in the coming year? Explain.
4. Why is a mirror such a fitting metaphor for the person who hears God's Word without responding to it (vss 23-24)? What do these verses imply about the role of scripture in our lives (notice other passages like 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12).
5. James mentions three practical ways of retaining God's Word—*reading* it, *reviewing* it, and *remembering* it (vs 25). Which of three do you find most helpful? Explain. Which do you find most difficult?

## Works

What “crop” do you want to raise this coming year? Share some specific areas of your life where you want to be a doer, and not just a hearer of God's Word. Spend the remainder of your time in prayer for one another.