

SMALL GROUP

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

When People Get On Your Last Nerve

James 1:19-21

April 19, 2020

Sermon Summary

We live in a fallen and defective world and the truth is, eventually the pressures of life will get to you or people will get on your last nerve. They will say something or do something or not do something or expect something that will just make you mad. How we react in those situations is critically important. Evidently this was a major issue with James' readers since he addressed the use of our words in chapter 1, and in greater depth in chapter 3. His teaching provides us helpful instruction when people get on our last nerve.

Diving Into The Message

1. When situations stress us or people annoy us, our first reaction is to lash out. Can you think of a time in which you spoke before thinking? How did it affect the person you lashed out at? How did it impact your walk with the Lord and your testimony?
2. In verse 19, James says to be "*quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger.*" Why do you think this is difficult for most people? Why is important to embrace as a lifestyle?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12. How do Peter's words apply to James' teaching in James 1:19-21?
4. In verse 21 James highlights the importance of God's Word in responding to stressful situations and irritating people. By using the word "implanted," what is James implying about the Word of God and how does it prepare us to react appropriately?
5. Implanting the Word doesn't just happen through reading it. How do we implant the Word of God? Read Psalm 119:9-11 and discuss the correlation of David's instruction with that of James.
6. What is one take-away from today's message and how will you apply it to your life?

Prayer Action

1. Pray for the peace of God in these stressful times and ask the Lord to give you the patience that only the Holy Spirit can produce.
2. Pray Christians would respond to one another, our political leaders, and the media as Jesus would.
3. Pray God stop the spread of COVID-19 and receive the glory for doing so.