Have you ever been given a hard time over something? What was it and how did you deal with it?

Read James 1:1-18

1. What is the difference between
   - Trials

   - Temptations

What kinds of trials are Christians facing throughout the world today because of their faith and trust in Jesus?

2. In verse 2 James says, “consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds”. This statement seems a bit odd – trials pure joy! Why do you think James says this?

3. What is happening to you when you are being tempted?

4. Who can you trust to help you to persevere and why? (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Study 2

Introduction

Can you think of a time when you have sat in a classroom and listened to the instructions that the teacher has given you and as soon as they stopped talking you forgot what you were meant to be doing? Or your mum and dad told you to do something for them and you said that you would but then chose not to do it?
Tell the group the story.

What were the consequences of your actions?

1. Why is it so important for us to listen before we speak?

2. Why is it so important that we do not become angry (v20)?

3. The word prevalent means that it’s everywhere. So we can say that we are surrounded by moral filth and evil everywhere we go everyday. What are we told to do about it and how do we do this practically?

Secondly what should we do instead (v21)? What does this mean?

4. Verse 22 says “Do not merely listen to God’s word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” What does this verse mean? Look at the Illustration in verses 23-24 to help you to understand it.

5. Why is it so important for us not to merely listen to God’s word?

Study 3

Introduction
Have you ever been left out by someone or by a group of people? How did it make you feel?

Before we read the passage from James I want you to think about favouritism (this section of James speaks about it). When we show favouritism towards people we are discriminating against others.
Give examples of how people show favouritism to others and discriminate against others in our society.

Read James 2:1-13
1. In James what example does he give in showing favouritism?

2. In what ways do we fall into this trap of showing favouritism?

3. Did Jesus show any favouritism? Look at Luke 15:1-2, Mark 2:15

5. So many people strive to be rich. Why do you think people want to be rich?

5

Intro
How true do you think the saying “sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me”?

Can you remember a time when you have been hurt by what someone has said to you?

Read James 3:1-12
1. In verse 2 James says that “we all stumble in many ways”. What does it mean that we stumble?

2. How do the 2 examples in verses 4 & 5 help us to understand the power our tongue can have?

3. Consider the spark that James speaks about. How much damage can it cause?

4. Look at James 3:9 what are the 2 different things that can come out of some ones mouth?

Why is this so wrong?

Why is it so hard for us to control our tongues?

Read James 3:13-18

5. 2 kinds of wisdom are being spoken of here. What are they and what the characteristics of each one?
   1.

   2.

6

Intro

When you look around the world today what is one thing you really like and what is one thing you don't like?

If you could change one thing about the way the world thinks what would it be?

Read James 4:1-12

1. When you read verses 1 to 3 what is the under lying problem to
   - quarrels and fights

2. Make a list of what the world thinks is important and what God's thinks is important?

   World God