

## OVERVIEW

**Main Point:** Practically live the faith you proclaim.

**Key Passages:** James 1:22-25; Matthew 9:35-10:1; John 4

## INFORMATION FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

This small group experience is designed for leaders to engage students in conversation after the sermon. During your small group time, encourage your students to talk, discuss, and open up. As a leader, do not be afraid of awkward silence. Allow God to work during this time while you facilitate the conversation as the students talk. Don't be afraid to unpack what it means to be a Christian. This series is designed to spark salvation conversations and help students turn to God.



## Hey Small Group Leader!

We are stoked that you are serving at a retreat in order to share the love and grace of Jesus with students. Our prayers are with you!

As you prepare to lead these sessions, there are a few quick tips we want to pass your way. **Small group leaders are the most influential people at a retreat** – so pray hard, prepare well, and magnify Jesus!

### Reminders for Small Group Leaders:

- **Prepare in advance.** Creativity doesn't happen overnight. Let the Bible passages marinate in your own heart before teaching the sessions.
- **Pray for your students.** You can begin praying for the students even before you know which ones will be in your group. Pray for their hearts. Pray for their parents. Pray for their salvation.
- **Make necessary changes to each lesson.** The best curriculum is still too general to connect in every ministry context. You are the expert on your students. Feel free to take notes and add questions to the sessions.
- **Facilitate a conversation.** You should not monopolize the teaching time. Allow students to discuss, reflect on, and internalize the content.

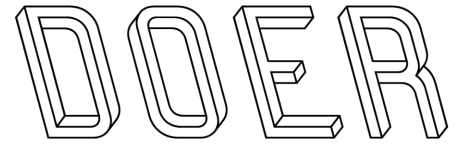
### Additional Resources for You:

Ministry Bubble is a content creation company that produces studies, books, and articles for youth ministries. Looking for resources to continue discipline students after your event? Then check out the links below for Ministry Bubble's divisions!

- [ChaseSnyder.blog](https://ChaseSnyder.blog) – Articles about leadership and discipleship.
- [YouthMinStudies.com](https://YouthMinStudies.com) – Downloadable and customizable studies.
- [228Publishers.com](https://228Publishers.com) – Paperback books and devotionals.

Blessings,

*The Ministry Bubble Team*



## About The Author

### Chase Snyder

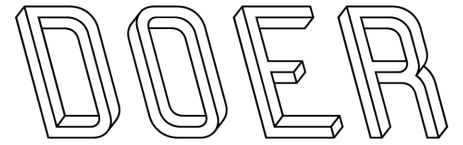
Chase is the High School and Young Adults Pastor at FBC Loganville in Metro Atlanta, GA. He is the founder of [MinistryBubble.com](http://MinistryBubble.com).

Chase is the author of *Doer: Becoming a Christian Who Acts In A Passive Culture*, *Doer of God's Word: A 30 Day Devotional For Students*, and *Stoked: 6 Questions To Fuel Your Fire For Jesus*.

He and his wife, Anne, have two children, Tripp and Brooke. His family seeks to live a life that honors God and encourages others to serve God in their day-to-day lives. His heart is to encourage and equip those who are in church to seek those who are unchurched and de-churched.

**Find out more about Chase's books and ministry at** [www.chasesnyder.net](http://www.chasesnyder.net).

**Facebook/Twitter/Instagram:** @ChaseSnyder12



## Session Overview

### Session 1: Do What It Says

How many times have you heard God's Word and walked away unchanged and disengaged? This is a reality for all of us as we study and apply God's Word. In this session, you will check your spiritual weight (spiritually fit, spiritually obese, spiritually malnourished) and realize the importance of practically applying the faith that you proclaim.

- **Main Point:** Jesus' disciples are doers
- **Main Passage:** James 1:22-25

### Session 2: Make The Jump

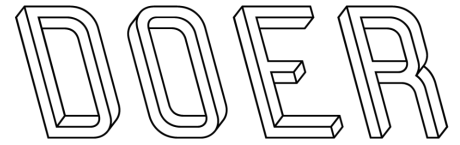
We understand that our community needs Jesus, but we are often quick to think that it is someone else's responsibility to serve, lead, and minister. In this session, you will walk through Matthew 9:35-10:1 and realize that being a doer of God's Word means that you are ready to jump into action.

- **Main Point:** Doers make the jump from listening to living
- **Main Passage:** Matthew 9:35-10:1

### Session 3: Become A Spark

Even though we are called, redeemed, and gifted, many of us still feel inadequate to share the Gospel. During this last session, you will walk through John 4 and see that once the woman at the well met Jesus she used her story to impact her entire village.

- **Main Point:** Doers are comfortable with being uncomfortable
- **Main Passage:** John 4



## Session Flow

### Set The Stage

5-7 minutes

We know how hard it is to keep students focused on the sermon topic as they make their way back to host homes or transition into rooms after the service. “Set The Stage” is a time to rein it back in and focus for the session.

### Large Talk Recap

5-7 minutes

The main point of the sermon will be the same main point that you will discuss with your students during each session. The “Large Talk Recap” will bring in a few ideas from the sermon to align the group for digging into God’s Word. Be ready to share your personal struggles with listening to God’s Word and applying it in your daily life. *Your transparency may enable Gospel transformation.* Be ready to encourage and engage students during this time.

### God’s Word

10-15 minutes

Each session will dig into one key passage from God’s Word. As best as you can, engage each student in conversation. The questions will focus on unpacking how the original hearers and audience felt, thought, wondered, and responded.

### Our Response

10-15 minutes

Once the original intent of the biblical passage is understood, it will be time to focus on how the students should respond to the biblical truth. The “Our Response” section is designed to spark awe, confession, thanksgiving, worship, or surrender. This is where the Gospel of Jesus hits our collective heart, soul, mind, and strength.

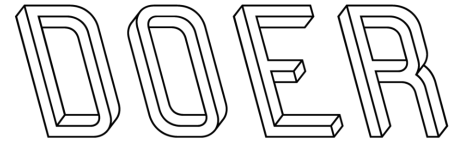
### Your Move

10-15 minutes

The aim of these sessions is for your students to take action on God’s Word. The “Your Move” section will focus on how students can get past their pride and comfort and start living the faith that they proclaim during worship. Students will need encouragement to take risks, set goals, and break habits. Be ready to pray with and encourage the students as they prepare to apply God’s Word to their day-to-day lives.

\*\* Remember, you know your students best. ***The best curriculum is still written for students in general, not for your specific group.*** Take a few minutes and personalize this small group lesson to ensure that it connects with your specific group of students.

DOER



## SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### SESSION 1: Do What It Says

#### The Study

How many times have you heard God's Word and walked away unchanged and disengaged? This is a reality for all of us as we study and apply God's Word. In this session, you will check your spiritual weight (spiritually fit, spiritually obese, spiritually malnourished) and realize the importance of practically applying the faith that you proclaim.

- **Main Point:** Jesus' disciples are doers
- **Main Passage:** James 1:22-25

#### The Supplies

- Small group leader guide
- Small group student guide (1 per student)
- Junk food (bag of chips, candy bar, cookies)
- Ink pens (1 per student)

#### Need Additional Resources?

Looking for more resources? We create customizable resources to help you reach the students in your community.

Head to [www.MinistryBubble.com](http://www.MinistryBubble.com) for books, trainings, blog posts, and digital studies.

## About The Passage: James 1:22-25

### About The Book:

The book of James was written by James, the half-brother of Jesus, somewhere between the years 40-60 AD.

This book was written to Jewish Christians who were scattered throughout the region after Stephen was martyred. James wrote this book to be a mini-commentary on the life and teachings of Jesus, especially the Sermon on the Mount. Throughout the book James used a pastoral voice to promote correct faith and to correct core issues that the early Jesus followers were experiencing. His aim was to promote a life of obedience to Jesus through encouraging and correcting.

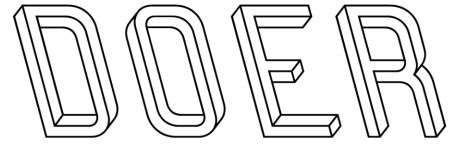
### About The Author:

It is interesting that James didn't believe Jesus was the Messiah during the early years of Jesus' ministry (John 7:5). It was only at the resurrection that James realized that Jesus was the Savior. He eventually became the leader of the Jerusalem Church. James, a Jewish Jesus follower, urges early Christians to live out their faith every day. Perhaps his lack of faith early in Jesus' ministry is why he passionately wrote this book – to inform others of the importance of faith in action.

### About The Passage:

The word "Word" is used to describe the Word of God, the Scriptures. James 1:22 emphasizes listening to the Word of God and internalizing the message while James 1:23-25 deals with the importance of using the information that we have learned.





**Sermon Notes:**

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Verses: \_\_\_\_\_

Songs I Liked: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

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**Questions To Ask Students During The Session:**

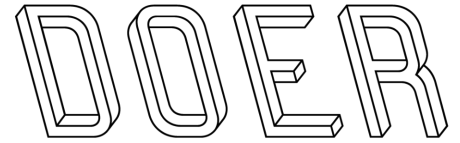
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## Session 1: Do What It Says

### Set The Stage

**Leader Tip:** Start the session off with a quick prayer. Do not ask for prayer requests at this time. Pray for guidance, focus, and a fresh movement of God's Spirit.

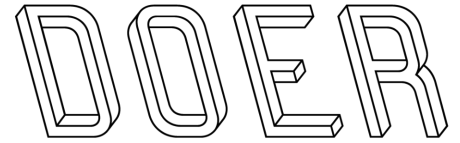
**Say This:** Have you ever noticed the different ways people can describe the same story, event, or even a person? Maybe the most popular couple at school stopped dating, but when the news finally got to you there were two completely different stories going around. We're going to talk about how that same thing can happen to us as Christians.

1. When you think of the term "Christian," what characteristics come to mind?
2. How would others in your schools and communities answer that question?
3. Is there a difference? If so, why do you think that is?

**Say This:** Unfortunately, there are many people who have a negative idea of what being a Christian means. Typically, this image comes from a person who did not live out the faith that they proclaimed. While people may have hundreds of opinions on what it means to be a Christian, Jesus sums up the entire Bible by saying that people need to "love God and love others" (Matthew 22:36-40).

### Large Talk Recap

1. What were the most memorable one or two concepts you heard the speaker discuss?
2. Why do you think those concepts in particular stuck out to you?



3. What do you think the main takeaway of the talk was?
4. What did the passage of Scripture reveal to you about God's character or His heart?

## God's Word

Transition to God's Word:

Ask a student to read the passage below.

### James 1:22-25

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do.

### 1. How would you summarize the main sin problem that Christians were struggling with that God addresses here through James?

James, the author of the book, was a leader of the Jerusalem Church. The church saw amazing growth in the early weeks, but they experienced great persecution. The Pharisees stoned Stephen, a spiritual leader, to death. After hearing about this the Jewish Christians scattered all around the region to hide from the Pharisees.

Because they were scattered, they were not meeting regularly to encourage one another the way that they did before the stoning of Stephen. The main problem that James addressed was that the early church was not practically applying the teachings of Jesus.

# DOER

They heard the great accounts of the miracles of Jesus, the boldness of the apostles, and the faith of the leaders, yet they did not allow God's Word to transform their day-to-day lives.

## **2. Why is it odd that James had to address the early church about the struggle of practically following what Jesus taught?**

James wrote to a group of people who were possibly alive while Jesus was walking on the earth! These aren't stories from thousands of years ago; these accounts just took place! If these early Jesus followers were susceptible to forgetting who Jesus is and what we should do with His teachings, then we have to guard against this as well.

## **3. According to these verses, what is required for Christians to be blessed?**

James wasn't writing about a financial blessing but a spiritual one. Salvation is through faith, not works – but salvation leads to works.

Because God created you, He knows what you need to function well. He also knows what behaviors will lead to the right life for you, and He give those instructions through His Word, the Bible. Obeying God's Word brings great blessings to us.

## **Our Response**

**Leader Tip:** Allow the students to internalize the Scriptures during this portion. Remember to facilitate discussion. As tempting as it may be, don't answer these questions for them. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds and hearts.

# DOER

1. In your opinion, do Christians today tend to *follow* these verses or *not follow* them?
2. What are some major issues in the news, your schools, and your communities that could be changed or impacted positively if Christians would obey God's Word?
3. Why do you think it's so difficult for Christians to obey and apply Scripture to their lives?
4. Do you read your Bible enough to really know what it is telling you to do?
5. Which is needed for you: reading more of the Bible or slowing down and reading the Bible more carefully?

## Your Move

**Main Point:** Jesus' disciples are doers

### **Object Lesson - *The Junk Food:***

Take out a bag of chips, a soda, or your favorite junk food and tell the students how much you like your favorite snack. After you let them know why you like it, let them know the amount of sugar and carbohydrates that are in your snack. They will probably be shocked!

**Say This:** While most of us realize that there are substantial amounts of sugar in junk foods, we continue to eat them anyway! Often we treat God's Word in the same manner: We know what is expected of us, and we know that following God's instructions leads to blessings, but we continue to do the opposite of what God wants for us. We tend to run to the things that cause us problems instead of those that give us life.

1. What one or two of God's commands can you think of that you and your friends *know about* but should do a better job of actually *doing*?
2. What can you do as you listen to God's Word that will help you apply it later?

# DOER

3. Would you classify yourself as:
  - a. Spiritually obese (taking in a lot of lessons, sermons, Scripture, etc., but not putting them into practice)
  - b. Spiritually malnourished (you don't have a steady intake of Scripture or biblical teachings)
  - c. Spiritually fit (you take in a lot of lessons *and* you succeed in practically applying the lessons, AKA obeying God's Word)
4. What are you really good at and how can you use that to serve God in your church, in your home, and in your school? (This could be a normal hobby/sport but also could be broader like "I'm organized" or "I am a good encourager.")
5. If you're really honest with yourself, what is the next step God is calling you to take in order to be more spiritually fit?

**End the session in prayer.**