

Alderwood Community Church
December 31, 2017

Are You Listening?
James 1:19-25; Psalm 119
(Page 1196 or 1216 and 607-612 or 610-615)

“My Sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
John 10:27

Big Idea: Followers of Jesus are to carefully listen to and completely obey what He says.

1. What happens when we don't listen to God?

2. What happens when we do listen to God?

3. How are we to listen to God?

A. Choose to listen

- (1) Choose a plan – Read a chapter a day, a book a month, Biographical studies, the N.T. in a year, the Bible in a year. (See resources below)
- (2) Choose a place
- (3) Choose a time
- (4) Choose a partner

B. Listen carefully

- (1) Eliminate Distractions (alone, unplugged, unhurried)
- (2) Ask for God's help (**Psalm 119:18,73,135,169**)
- (3) Ask the right questions (RIP – Read, Interpret, Apply)

(1) What does the Scripture actually say? (Observation)

Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Ask: What type of literature is this? Narrative, Poetry, Discourse?

(2) What does the Bible mean? (Interpretation)

Ask: What did the author intend to communicate to the readers?

Ask: What timeless truths are being taught? Is this describing an event or is it prescribing a behavior?

(3) How should I respond to what God has said? (Application)

Ask: God, what are you trying to tell me today?

Meditate on the Scripture. Pray for obedience. (**Psalm 1**)

C. Do what God says *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22*

Resources: The Bible Project (website: videos, blogs, studies)
Read Scripture (app)
Bible Gateway (website: devotions, reading plans)
How To Read the Bible for All It's Worth – G. Fee (book)