



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for August 3, 2008**  
**Released on Wednesday, July 30, 2008**

**"Obey God's Word"**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves " (James 1:22)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** (James 1:17-27)

**17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

**18** Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**19** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

**20** For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

**21** Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

**22** But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

**23** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

**24** For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

**25** But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

**26** If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.

**27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

**OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that we must obey God's Word if we want to be like Christ.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. God wants believers to become like Jesus.
2. We must put off all sin.
3. We must listen to God's Word and obey it.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, bring several recipe cards of kid friendly foods.

For Telling How to Live, bring a hand mirror and some skin lotion.

For Helping to Remember, for each student bring two half-sheets of black construction paper and a piece of heavy weight aluminum foil that is an inch narrower and shorter than the construction paper. You will need scissors (safety versions for younger students), glue, tape, and chalk. You will also need a copy of the word search, at the end of this lesson summary, for each student.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Tell the following story to your young students to begin the lesson and then discuss:

A mother gave instructions to her children at the end of one day. "After you make your beds, children, I want you to pick up the toys. Put the blocks in the yellow tub. All the play-clothes belong in the green tub. The army men fit into the blue tub," instructed Mother.

When Jenny went into the playroom a few minutes later, she started putting play-clothes into the green tub, as Mother had told her. She noticed Chad tossing blocks and army men into the yellow tub.

"Did you hear what Mom said?" she asked. "Only blocks go in that tub."

"I heard, but I am in a hurry to go play ball with Tom and Jeff. It really does not matter which tub the toys are in. All that matters is that the toys are picked up," said Chad.

Both Jenny and Chad heard what their mother said. But which one did what she said?

**LESSON BACKGROUND:**

Time: about A.D. 45

Place: from Jerusalem

This week's scripture text comes from the book of James. James was the half brother of Jesus. He was one of Jesus' disciples and a leader in the church at Jerusalem. In his

writings to the early believers, he gave them practical instructions and advice for the Christian life. Obeying God's Word is the only way to be like Christ. Unsaved and saved alike face the problem of self-deception. Be alert. It is not enough to only hear God's Word. We must also obey God's Word.

Sometimes Christians only *hear* what God's Word says. In our lesson God tells us to hear and to *do* what the Bible says. This is important.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

#### **THE GIFTS OF GOD:**

Have your students think of one gift that they received on their last birthday. (Students answer.) Who gave the gift to you?

That person did give you the gift, but God gave that person the ability to give the gift. The Bible says that everything good is from God. He gave your parents a job and enough money to care for your needs. God sends sunshine and rain for crops to grow so that we have food.

Salvation is a gift of God. When we trust Jesus as Saviour, God wants us to become like Jesus. He wants to change us so that we act like children of God. The Bible says to put off sin.

#### **LISTENING AND OBEYING:**

Help the students locate James 1:17-27 in their Bibles and discuss some of the commands given.

Be quick to listen, but be slow to speak and to get angry. Stay away from sin. Do not have anything to do with wicked acts or things that are naughty. Sometimes a child thinks it is fun to be a little naughty in order to get extra attention, but God says that is wrong. We must put off all sin.

Listening is good, but it is not enough. In the story to begin our lesson, Chad heard his mother's instructions, but he did not follow them. There are instructions all around us for doing many of the things we need to do. For example, we have recipe cards that show us how to cook and prepare foods. (Display the recipe cards). These recipes show us how to make some of our favorite foods. They tell us step by step what we need to do to prepare these wonderful foods. But unless we actually do what is on these cards, we can't enjoy these wonderful foods.

The Bible gives us God's recipe for salvation and living the Christian life. Some people read the Bible every day, but you have to do more than just read the recipe. You have to follow it – do what it says.

God tells believers to both hear and do what He commands. Every time you read your Bible, have family devotions, or attend Sunday school and church, you hear God's Word. Be careful to also obey the Bible. Often people know what the Bible says, but they do not obey it. God tells children to obey their parents (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:1). Are you

careful to obey God's commands? Do you obey happily, or do you fuss and complain when you do not like what your parents tell you?

The person who hears the Bible but does not obey it is fooling himself. He is deceived. If he truly knows God and wants to be like Jesus, he will obey God's Word. Look in your Bible, and listen to it being taught. Do what God says. Then you will be like Jesus.

Be careful what you say. Speak kindly. Say words that please God. Do not repeat words that are bad or suggest naughty things. Bad language will hurt your testimony for Jesus.

Be kind. Help people who have needs. Visit people who are lonely. Hate sin. Obey God's Word.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

James explains the difference between just hearing and both hearing and doing what God says. (As you talk, put a spot of skin lotion on your cheek.)

When I look in my mirror, I see what I look like. (Look in the mirror.) Oops! I have a smudge on my cheek.

Hearing God's Word is like looking into a mirror. As we listen, we hear what God wants us to do.

I see I have something on my face. I know I should wipe it off. But until I do, it stays there.

We see our sin. We must get rid of it. We must both hear God's Word and obey it. (Wipe off lotion.)

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Fold one piece of black paper in half. Beginning at the fold, cut out the middle section, leaving a one-inch frame. Tape foil over the hole, put glue around the edges of the frame, and place the second piece of paper over the foil. Fold to form a Bible with a mirror inside. Print "Obey God's Word" in chalk below the mirror.

A word search with key words from the lesson is also included at the end of this summary.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves " (James 1:22)

When we listen to the Bible but do not obey it, we fool ourselves. People who love God will obey His Word.

Having received God's gift, we must put it to work in our lives. There must be a change, James said, and it must be a change in the way one acts, not just in the things one says or believes. There must also be a change in the things one does not do. These changes do not make us a Christian, but they do reveal that the Word we have heard has effected a change in our heart.

**PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank you for Your Word. Help us to hear Your Word and to always do what it says. In Jesus' name, amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Honor All People" and focuses on being kind to all people. Study James 2:1-13.

**Lesson Summarized by:**

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**WORD SEARCH (Obey God's Word James 1:17-27)**

Find each of the following words.

HEAR

SHADOW

OBEY

TONGUE

DOERS

WORD

HEARERS

LIGHTS

TRUTH

SPEAK

ANGER

RELIGION

GIFT

BLESSED

FIRSTFRUITS

MIRROR

W O B N N R I L I G H T S H E A R E R S O I S Y  
R N T L R G T Y G S N R D D E U R A I E H L R P  
R R W O E N S E S D H E I G D O E T W R R E T R  
R R R E H S R E R A D G O D A H T G D L S R R O  
L E S T T R S H E N E N M D H O R A B P H F T N  
D L R H U W K E O W T A N F R A E D E I T O O E  
R M I R R O R H D I I O D R B E O A T K N T S U  
I H E I T R A Y O S I T F I G R K N I G L I A N  
R O W A N D R P W G O F E T N A T B U E R R F D  
T R I E E G E G I B W S R T E A I E R I B H O F  
U B E R S Y N L U Y R O R W O D A H S S D R R R  
I E D G S E E I I I N A D E G O R O L R R E R E  
E A B H S R W D F K O D M T O P R A O N R S G I  
S L O B E Y O R T O L O G R I D B R A S F E T D  
S G I O E O O R T A R S F I R S T F R U I T S K  
K T K I S U S R E R D H F O M A D M N B R F R T

**SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH (Obey God's Word, James 1:17-27)**

B L I G H T S H E A R E R S  
L R A  
E E E  
H S G H S  
T S N P T  
U W E A N E O  
M I R R O R D O A N  
T R I T F I G K G  
D G U  
I S E  
L R W O D A H S  
E E  
R O  
O B E Y D  
F I R S T F R U I T S