OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who*, *What*, *Where*, *When*, *How*, *Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Are you slow to speak and quick to listen? Where in your life do you need to be quicker to listen?

b) Are you quick to anger? What makes you angry? How do your words reflect your anger?

c) What pride might your anger reveal?

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) James tells us that "the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." How does our own anger usurp the authority of God? OR...How does our selfish anger keep us from living a righteous life before God?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ? a) James says we can change by humbly receiving the implanted word – the gospel. How does the gospel keep us from anger and help us to humbly listen more and talk less? (Think about these two gospel truths: we are more wicked than we ever imagined and we are more loved than we ever hoped)

APPLICATION

a) Pastor Mark said that how well we listen to others reflects how well we listen to the word. Where can you see this correlation being lived out in your own life?

b) What are some specific ways you can "receive with meekness the implanted word?" (Think about how you can study the word on your own and with others)

FIGHTER VERSES: James 2:14-17.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his righteousness and for how he has made his righteousness available to us.
- Confess ways that you have failed to listen and have rather been quick to speak and quick to get angry.
- Ask God to help you humbly receive his word the gospel and let it change you from the inside out.