

Life Group Discussion Guide

The Book of James

January 10

LEADER NOTES

This week we had the honor of welcoming Pastor Mike Howerton to continue our series in the Book of James. In James chapter 2, we begin to see that this entire book is about action. We can study it all we want, but unless we live accordingly, we're missing the point.

As you discuss, make sure to keep your conversation centered on "real-time" faith. It is easy to let the conversation drift to either the "good ol' days" or how things could be in the future. It is both difficult and fruitful to stay focused on your lives now and how God is currently working in your midst.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

James 2:1-13 (NIV)

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong? If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.

But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

LOOK UP

How does removing favoritism and discrimination from our lives reflect the heart of Jesus?

LOOK AROUND

Which topics do you tend to be the most judgemental about?

Have you considered that the Jesus we read about in the gospels looked, sounded, and lived life very differently from you? How does that impact the way you view others who are different?

LOOK AHEAD

Pastor Mike summed up James 2 in three simple phrases. Read these phrases below and, one-at-a-time, discuss what it looks like to practically live them out in your life:

- Hate Discrimination
- Love your Neighbor
- Walk humbly with God

PRAYER