



Week 4 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 2:1-13 ESV

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
- **Introduce the theme:** Today's conversation centers on favoritism—not just obvious prejudice, but the subtle ways we assign value to people based on appearance, status, usefulness, comfort level, or similarity to ourselves. James teaches that partiality is incompatible with faith in Jesus because it contradicts the mercy we've received from Him. This week invites honest reflection about how we see others—and how the gospel reshapes our instincts toward people.
 - **Leader note:** Encourage vulnerability. Favoritism is often quiet and unintentional, but the Spirit uses awareness to produce transformation.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- When you walk into a room of strangers, what's the first thing you usually notice about people?
- Have you ever felt judged based on appearance, background, or assumptions? What was that like?

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 2:1-13

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?

DIG DEEPER:

- How can favoritism, if left unchecked, be damaging to the church?
- Why do you think people naturally show preference towards those with status, influence, or similarity? How have you seen this in church before?
- Verse 5 says God has chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith. What does that teach us about what God values?
- Why do we sometimes minimize “small” sins like favoritism compared to others?
- In the message, Ayren compared sin to a chain link, where if one link breaks it effects the entire body. When you think of varying degrees of sin, do you truly view it that way or do you think that certain sins are “ok”?
- Where do you most often see subtle favoritism show up in your everyday life? What can you do to counteract that?

- How does remembering the mercy that Jesus showed you change the way you treat others?
-

APPLY

Spend some time reflecting on these questions:

- Where might favoritism be quietly shaping your relationships?
- Who is someone God may be inviting you to see differently this week?
- What is one practical way you can intentionally extend dignity or attention to someone you normally wouldn't?

Discipleship Opportunity for the week:

Ask the Holy Spirit each day:

“Is there someone I’m overlooking today?”

Then respond intentionally.

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Awareness:** God, show us our hidden biases
 - **Hearts shaped by mercy:** Help us remember the mercy you extend towards us and empower us to extend it towards others
 - **Perspective:** Help us view everyone, even ourselves as Christ views us
-

CLOSING

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week's passage is James 2:14-26 ESV