



Week 7 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 3:13-18 ESV

Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Introduce the theme: True wisdom comes from God. Anything else is a counterfeit. In this week's message, we looked at James 3:13-18 and the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above. James shows us that wisdom is not just about what we know. It is about how we live. True wisdom produces meekness, peace, mercy, sincerity, and Christlikeness. Counterfeit wisdom may sound smart, but when it is driven by jealousy, selfish ambition, and a refusal to seek God, it leads to disorder and destruction.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- What is your favorite section of a bookstore or library?
- When you need advice about a difficult decision, where do you usually turn first? Why?
- What is a piece of advice that sounded wise at first, but later proved to be unhealthy, incomplete, or wrong?

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 3:13-18 together.

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Is there anything that stands out to you most in this passage? Why?

DIG DEEPER:

- In verses 14-16, James describes earthly wisdom as marked by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition. Where do you see those things creating disorder in the world around us?
- Look again at the list in verse 17: pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. Which one of these feels most needed in your life right now?
- The message said, "True wisdom isn't about what you know. It's about what you do with what you know." Where is God inviting you to apply something you already know is true?
- Have you ever been right about something, but wrong in the way you handled it? What would wisdom marked by meekness have looked like in that moment?

- *Read Proverbs 3:5-7 then ask:* Earthly wisdom often tells us to trust ourselves first. What is one area of life where you are tempted to lean on your own understanding instead of seeking God's wisdom?
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APPLY

James teaches that wisdom from above is not something we manufacture in ourselves. It is something we receive from God and learn to walk in by His grace.

- **Read and Apply the Word of God:** The Bible reveals God's heart, God's will, and God's design for life. How is your relationship with the Word of God right now? What are you reading? If you're not reading currently, how could picking up your Bible help shape godly wisdom in your life this week?
 - **Walk in the Way of Jesus:** Jesus is the clearest picture of wisdom in action. What is one attribute of the life of Jesus that you want to grow in?
 - **Listen to the Whisper of the Holy Spirit:** The Spirit corrects, teaches, convicts, and leads us. How can you create space this week to listen before you react? Or is there any area where the Spirit is guiding you, but the rest of the group can offer some accountability?
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GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **True Wisdom:** Ask the Lord to help us discern his wisdom from fake wisdom.
 - **Fruit of the Spirit:** Ask the Holy Spirit to produce his fruit in your life. Pray that growing in wisdom makes us more like Him instead of being prideful or arrogant.
 - **Courage:** Ask God to help us not just KNOW what He wants us to do, but also to have the courage to see it through and live it out.
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CLOSING

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week we'll move into James 4.