



## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FAITH ALIVE - A STUDY OF JAMES

### **WHO IS WISE? - JAMES 3:13-18**

#### **Focus**

James is making the point that those who are genuinely wise will show themselves to be so by the character of their lives. The aim of this passage, therefore, is to invite us to examine ourselves to see whether or not we're truly wise, with the goal of moving us towards greater Christ-likeness.

#### **Opening Question**

When you're seeking advice and counsel from others, what do you look for in another person to help you determine whether they're someone to whom you will go for that counsel?

#### **Read**

James 3:13-18

#### **Some Questions for Reflection**

Looking at verse 13, what answer does James give to his own question?

What's the connection between meekness and wisdom?

Consider the type of 'wisdom' described in verses 14-16.

- What is its origin (v.15)?
- What characterizes it (v.14)?
- What does it produce (v.16)?



Consider the true wisdom described in verses 17-18.

- What is its origin (v.17a)?
- What characterizes it (v.17b)?
- What does it produce (v.18)?

Consider the rest of James' letter. How does this passage fit in with what James has been doing throughout?

### ***Closing Reflection and Application***

Who in your life has been a source of godly wisdom to you? What characteristics mark his or her life?

What's the difference between knowing facts and possessing godly wisdom?

According to James, why can't someone whose life is marked by immorality be wise?

Building off of James and wisdom literature in the Old Testament (especially Ecclesiastes and Proverbs), as well as the teaching of Jesus, three definitions of wisdom we're given in Sunday's sermon. Read them and discuss.

- Wisdom is the skill of living well – indeed, living beautifully! – before God in all of life according to the Scriptures.
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight (beautiful!) your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- Wisdom is to take all of our knowledge and all of our learning, and to put it at the feet of Jesus and say to him, “Lord, help me to put this to use in my life for your glory in this fallen world.”



Sunday's sermon suggested four avenues to growing in wisdom. Discuss and work to apply them to each other's lives.

1. Reverence before God
2. Receiving God's Word
3. Resting in Jesus
4. Requesting it from God