



O BROTHER

WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

SESSION 2 - FAVORITISM

SERIES BIG IDEA

James, the half brother of Jesus, shares wisdom on how to overcome challenges that can trip us up as Christ-followers and keep us from growing to maturity.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Loving all people as ourselves is a mark of maturity.

SCRIPTURE

James 2:1-13

ICEBREAKER & OPENING THOUGHT

These questions will warm up the group to the conversation and introduce the topic of discussion. It will be helpful to get the group to think about favoritism in its more obvious forms as well as the subtler ways we discriminate. There is a lot of research on implicit bias, confirmation bias, and how our perspective shapes how we see people. You may even consider visiting communitychristian.org/media and watching the video within the message for this week about the power of suggestion experiment with a set of photographers.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Get people talking about the text, pointing out the main ideas in the passages. James is relatively straightforward through his letter and here in particular, but what he says is always hard-hitting. One area that may be challenging for the group is James' discussion that breaking the law at any point makes a person a lawbreaker. We tend to rank sins, but for God, anyone who breaks the law of God is a law-breaker. N.T. Wright may be helpful here: the law is like a sheet of glass: If it's broken, it's broken. It's no good saying it's only a little bit broken. A sheet of glass can no more be only partly broken than a car tire can be only partly flat. If it's flat, it's flat.

LIFE APPLICATION

Have the group wrestle with who and how they can show favor. It is easy for us to dismiss people who disagree with us or have a different point of view. There may be whole groups of people we need to acknowledge, appreciate, or affirm. Our world really needs the church to show favor to all. Encourage your group to lead the way.

CHALLENGE

All of us are prone to snap judgments and intentional or unintentional discrimination. We can make judgments based on perceived success, intelligence, or what they can do for us. I believe our world is desperately wanting to see people show favor to everyone they meet. So let's be a people who are so filled with God's spirit that the world will experience the extravagant kindness and love of God. Can you think of three practical ways you can show favor to others this week?