



# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Week Four

#### **SERMON RECAP**

In James 3:13-4:4, we learn that wisdom isn't just what we know, it's how we live. James contrasts worldly wisdom (marked by jealousy, selfish ambition, and disorder) with godly wisdom (pure, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and sincere). Like a coffee cup spilling whatever's inside when bumped, pressure reveals what fills our hearts. That's why it matters what we consume, because music, media, relationships, and voices all shape us. James warns that friendship with the world creates hostility toward God (James 4:4). We can't have both. But the good news? God gives wisdom generously to anyone who asks (James 1:5). We must intentionally fill our hearts with His truth through prayer, Scripture, and godly community, and watch His wisdom overflow into our lives.

#### **GET STARTED**

- **What was your best subject in school? Why did you excel in this? What was your worst subject? How bad was it?**

#### **TAKE IT IN**

- **What encouraged or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

#### **TALK IT OVER**

##### **Read James 3:13-18**

- They used a coffee cup to illustrate that what's in our hearts comes out when we're 'bumped' or under pressure. **What are some examples of things that 'fill our cup' in both positive and negative ways?**
- What we put into our hearts matters. **Think about a recent time when you were under stress or pressure. What 'came out' of you in that moment, and what does that reveal about what's currently filling your heart?**
- Look back at the passage. **What are the characteristics of wisdom that comes from above, and how do these differ from worldly wisdom? How would you define each characteristic? Which of these godly wisdom characteristics do you find most challenging to live out, and what practical steps could you take to grow in that area?**

##### **Read James 4:1-4**

- James says we don't have because we don't ask God. **Think about your recent prayers. Have any been driven more by selfish pleasure than by God's will? How can you tell the difference?**

- James uses strong language with the word enemy. The Greek word means hostility or active opposition. **Why do you think James sees ‘friendship with the world’ as such a serious issue rather than just a minor drift from God? What does "friendship with the world" look like practically in your life right now? Where are you most tempted to align with the world's values instead of God's?**
- Trey shared how music lyrics affected him even when he wasn't consciously paying attention to them. **What role do you think media (music, movies, social media, etc...) plays in shaping our hearts and wisdom? What specific media influences in your life might be subtly shaping your values, and what changes could you make to ensure God's truth is filling your heart instead?**
- **In what area of your life are you in need of Godly wisdom?** Let the answer to this question fuel your prayer time.

### **LIVE IT OUT**

What do you need to do in order to fill your heart with God's wisdom rather than the world's empty promises? Take a moment to consider the 5 to 8 voices that shape your thinking most: pastors, podcasters, influencers, friends, coworkers, or family. Gently ask yourself: Do these voices reflect the wisdom in James 3:13–18? Are they marked by purity, peace, gentleness, and mercy or by jealousy, selfish ambition, and division? This isn't about judging anyone; we're all growing. It's simply about being honest about whether these voices draw you closer to God's character or pull you away? If you notice some aren't leading you toward godly wisdom, what might need to change? Let this be an invitation to be more intentional about who you give space to in your mind and heart.

### **Memorize:**

*“But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.” James 3:17 (NLT)*

### **Further Study:**

Learn more about wisdom in the following Bible passages:

- Psalm 90:12
- Proverbs 9:10–12
- Ecclesiastes 1:17–18
- Jeremiah 9:23–24
- 1 Corinthians 1:18–31