

James
Small Group Guide
Week 3: True vs False Wisdom

In this series we will walk through the book of James and see how it tells students to prepare for the challenges of life ahead of them. We will look at 12 teachings about wholehearted devotion to Jesus and how we can mature our faith into wholeness.

Our memory verse for this series is James 1:2-3

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

BACKGROUND

- 1) James 1:27 "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."
- 2) There is an Internal and External Focus to James 1:27. Each week of this series we will switch between teachings around our internal life and our external life.
- 3) This week is Internal. False Wisdom is: (3:13-18)
 - a. Earthly
 - b. Unspiritual
 - c. Demonic

POINT 1: EARTHLY

- 1) Earthly wisdom focuses on just what is in front of us and doesn't consider the feedback we get from the bible and other Christian counsel.
- 2) Earthly wisdom pursues the mundane in life.
- 3) We must learn that "it's not about you"

POINT 2: UNSPIRITUAL

- 1) Unspiritual wisdom indicates an attitude that prioritizes our own pursuits
- 2) True wisdom will prioritize the purposes of God and will take a spiritual attitude towards those purposes and the trials along the way.
- 3) We must learn that "your attitude matters"

POINT 3 DEMONIC

- 1) Demonic wisdom is in active rebellion against God.
- 2) It places its confidence in wealth and power.
- 3) Demonic wisdom bears fruit that is not of God or His purposes.
- 4) We must learn that "results matter."

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Small Group Questions: Below are some topics to guide your discussion and sample questions. You know your students best. What questions can guide them through these ideas to a better understanding of God and a clear next step for themselves?

- 1) *What are some things that can be put in front of us that can distract us from a deeper relationship with God?*
- 2) *Why is it important to understand that it's not about you?*
- 3) *Is it hard to hear that it's not about you or is that liberating?*
- 4) *What are the kinds of ways that this world encourages us to live in rebellion towards God?*
- 5) *Why do you think that attitude matters?*
- 6) *What are some things that impact our attitude?*
- 7) *What can we do to change our attitude?*
- 8) *How would our relationships (dating, family, friends) look differently if we approached them with True Wisdom vs False Wisdom?*
- 9) *Why do results matter?*
- 10) *What kinds of results (fruit) should we seek?*
- 11) *Why do you think we are called to meekness and not weakness?*
- 12) *Does pursuing meekness inform how hard we should prepare (study, be a student) for the challenges of life?*