

JAMES

Wisdom for the Everyday Stuff of Life

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 12: WISDOM FOR THE POOR

DISCOVER (PRE-WORK)

Before and while you read these passages ask the Spirit of God to illuminate your heart and mind and bring conviction and clarity of his truth for your life. Take some time during your own personal study to read through these four key questions:

1. Who is God (what does this passage tell me about God's character)?
2. What Has God Done (how do I see God's character in action here)?
3. Who Am I (how does God's character and action shape how I see myself)?
4. What Do I Do (if I believe 1-3 how would I respond and relate to others)?

Scripture: James 5:7-11

QUESTION: What did you DISCOVER during your study?

NURTURE

Confess out loud to one another areas of personal struggle or unbelief that the Spirit revealed during your personal study.

In light of this week's sermon, consider these questions together:

1. Why is it so important to hold in tension the two ideas: "Money Matters" but "Money isn't the Point"?
2. What's the connection between James' exhortation to be patient and the idea that money isn't the point? Why does this matter?
3. What does it mean, in this context, to "establish your hearts"?

4. When Job's life was falling apart, he cried out to God with his anger and confusion, who do you cry out to?
5. Wherever you are on the spectrum of wealth, God put you there. What do you think he's trying to teach you right now in light of this?

During this time, let each person share how or where they need to repent and believe the truth of God revealed to them in Jesus. You may need to guide each other to what is true of God and ourselves in light of what Jesus has done. For instance, someone may be experiencing a great deal of dryness or emptiness in their relationship with God. They may need to be reminded that God wants to satisfy the deep thirst of their soul with the living water that Jesus has to offer. The call to repent may look like turning away (repent) from empty sources or corrupt sources that they have been depending up and turning to Jesus (believe) to be the unending supply of soul water. Use this time for confessing out loud the wrong sources and calling out in prayer for God the Father to pour His love into their hearts through his Spirit as they turn to Jesus for help.

QUESTION: How will you REPENT and BELIEVE the gospel?

ACT

In light of your time together, what steps will you take to act on your new discoveries and affirmed beliefs?

Consider these questions:

1. Which of the two ideas in tension, do you tend to fall off into? What steps will you take to remedy that this week?
2. Do you feel yourself being impatient about your money or place in life? What are you disbelieving about the Gospel that has led you to impatience?
3. In view of the previous question, what Gospel truths do you need to "establish your heart" in?
4. Why don't you cry out to God in your pain? What keeps you from it?
5. This week, be "specifically generous". Pick a person or situation, prepare for it and execute on it.

QUESTION: What will you DO and who will you TELL about what God has done?