

JAMES

Wisdom for the Everyday Stuff of Life

DNA GUIDE

WEEK 5: WISDOM IN THE FACE OF DISCRIMINATION

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 2:1-13

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. Start by confessing areas of discrimination to one another. As challenging as this can be, you'll never break through without talking about it.
2. What do you think these areas of discrimination come from? What is the root idolatry that causes you to think, speak and act this way?

3. Do you have any personal stories of experiencing discrimination? If so, please share them with each other.
4. We defined discrimination as when our behavior reflects the person we see in front of us and not the Spirit of God within us. How and when have you seen that play out in your life? Be as specific as possible.
5. Re-read some of the verses that were read during the sermon (listed below). What sticks out to you? What is convicting or challenging?

- **John 7:24**

- **1 Timothy 5:21**

- **Leviticus 19:33-34**

- **Deuteronomy 10:17-18**

- **Ezekiel 16:49**

- **Malachi 3:5**

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. What do you think is your starting point in this area? Examples: fear, protection, success, etc. How would it look different for you to start with the Gospel?

2. Who do you have in your life currently that you could listen to this week?
3. Who is someone that is part of a group that you have discriminated against but could pursue to know better this week?
4. What are specific ways that you will choose to see all the people around you in light of the Gospel? How are those you have discriminated against image bearers? How can you choose to see people's weakness as the common effect of the fall? How will you choose to see people as those very people that Jesus came to die for?

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