



Week 3 Overview

In Our Impartiality James 2:1–13

Get specific. Write it down. Focus on one area of growth.

As the first writing of the New Testament, James does not write a statement of faith to affirm the doctrine of the church. He isn't concerned with how the church is organized or how its leadership is structured. He doesn't share ministry strategies for launching new programs or best practices for leading worship services. He's shockingly quiet about what the church looks like as an organization and he's laser-focused on what it looks like to for *God's people to become like Christ*.

Get Specific

Encourage your small group to consider one area in their life where they want to increasingly become more like Christ.

Write it down

Ask everyone to write on the inside cover of the study guide what they want to focus on. This will help your group commit to specific areas and be accountable for pursuing growth.

Focus on one area of growth

Over the coming weeks and months, refer to these areas and share what people are doing and how you see God working.

Read

Get a running start by reading James 1:1–27 as a group.

What has been one thing for you to know from Chapter 1? Why?

Read James 2:1–13 as a group.

What stands out in this passage? What are your observations?

Talk

Though James is clear and direct, his tone is loving. After comparing a rich man and a poor man in verses 1–3, James raises four questions (v4–7). Rather than accusing these believers, James engages his readers with questions.

Like Jesus, James models the power of asking good questions to draw out the heart. James challenges us to search our hearts.

From these verses, how is the Holy Spirit convicting your heart?

Think

James says if we keep the whole law but fail in one point, we are guilty of it all (v10). His point is that we are not perfect.

The Christian life is about coming to Christ and *progressively* growing and *persevering* to become more like Christ.

Let's encourage one another, be authentic, embrace accountability and celebrate growth.