



Sermon Study Guide

Be Wise in God's Eyes – James 3:13-18

March 19 & 20, 2016

Opening Question

Recount a memory or story of someone in your life that you felt was a wise person. What particular character trait or thing about this person made them seem wise in your eyes?

Read Together

Read **James 3:13-18** as a group.

Big Idea

Wisdom as the world would typically define it is not necessarily the way God would define it. Wisdom has some very specific characteristics that God would like us to know and put into practice.

Discussion Questions

1. Is it a safe assumption that pretty much everyone at least appreciates wisdom, if not has a desire for it themselves? Why do you think that is?
2. Read James 1:5. Discuss the promise that James makes. How does that make you feel – to think God would give you wisdom if you asked for it?
3. How much would the gift of wisdom influence the way we live?
4. For the person who believes they are “wise and understand God’s ways,” how might they interpret James words when he says, “prove it?” What point do you think James was trying to drive home?
5. Can you think of an example of false (twisted) wisdom? Why would it be so easy to fall into that trap? What does false wisdom say about the kind of person who displays it (where are their loyalties)?
6. What kinds of things hold us back from experiencing the kind of wisdom James is talking about in verse 17?
7. Sometimes we spend too much of our time focusing on avoiding the sin. Can you think of any examples where this might be the case?
8. Describe the relationship between wisdom and our relationships with other people. Give examples of what wisdom in this context might look like.

Challenge

This week I commit to pray daily the prayer of Psalm 119:35-37. I will ask God to be the guide of my steps and direct me according to His commands.

Prayer

- As you pray, ask God to give you a generous amount of wisdom. Pray that He will give you the courage to show that wisdom in your actions towards others.
- Ask Him to help you fully embrace the gift of wisdom He gives in all your relationships.

Next Step

- Make a list (write it down or keep a mental list), of specific (new) ways you can display wisdom to others this week.
- On your own, read through Galatians chapter 5–6:10. Meditate on how we are to live out the wisdom God grants us.