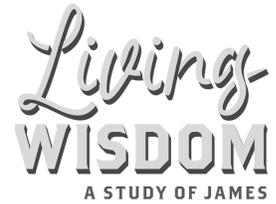


INTRODUCTION and JAMES 3:13-18

September 7-8, 2022



1. Share some reasons you decided to be a part of Women in the Word this semester.

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

2. We are studying the book of James this semester. Many theologians think the author of James is James, the half-brother of Jesus. Read James 1:1. How does James describe himself?

What do you learn about James' character from his description?

What else do we learn about James from the following verses?

Mark 6:1-3

John 7:1-5

Acts 1:12-14

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

Galatians 1:18-19 and 2:8-9

3. The book of James teaches a great deal about God's wisdom. How do you define wisdom?

In what ways do you see understanding as different from wisdom?

What does Proverbs 9:10 teach about wisdom?

4. Read James 3:13-18. Read verse 13 again. Give examples of how both good works and humility can display wisdom.

5. Read James 3:14-16. What attitudes describe false wisdom?

From where does this wisdom originate?

Think of some times in your own life when applying worldly wisdom led you to envy, selfishness, confusion, or even wrongdoing.

6. Read James 3:17. Describe the characteristics of wisdom 'from above' in your own words.

Which evidence of God's wisdom would you like to see more of in your own life and why?

Who is Wise?

James 3:13-18

Introduction to the Book of James

Who wrote the book of James? James, the half-brother of Jesus, leader of the Jerusalem Church

Who is the audience? Persecuted Jewish Christians scattered beyond Jerusalem

What are the themes? Perseverance, active faith, our speech, favoritism, the Word, prayer, wisdom

What is the message? Live out your faith with godly wisdom in everyday real-life situations.

Study the book of James with an open heart and mind. Gain _____ wisdom.

Godly Wisdom vs. Worldly Wisdom

- **Who is wise and understanding? 3:13**
Wisdom is skillfully applying knowledge to practical living.
A wise person demonstrates understanding of Jesus by the way she lives.
Skillful living results in right living with humility.
- **Worldly Wisdom - False Wisdom 3:14-16**
Good conduct, or right living, is contrasted with bitter envy. Envy is jealousy of others' success.
Meekness or humility is contrasted with self-seeking ambition.
The source of worldly wisdom is Satan.
The outcome of worldly wisdom or false wisdom is chaos and evil.
- **Godly Wisdom - True Wisdom 3:17-18**
The source of true wisdom is God!
Godly wisdom is characterized first and foremost by holiness.
Godly wisdom is also peaceable, considerate, willing to listen, overflowing with forgiveness and blessing, free from prejudice, and genuine.
The outcome is a community living right with God, in peace with others, and enjoying blessings.

***Seek God's wisdom. Desire it and _____ God for it.
Honestly look at your lives. Do not disregard _____ and jealousy.
Create a climate of _____ as you walk everyday with Jesus.***

Key: living, ask, pride, peace

Living Wisdom – Introduction and James 3:13-18
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PSALM 19:7a The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

MARK 6:3 “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?”

ACTS 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

PROVERBS 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

PROVERBS 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.