

NO ORDINARY PEOPLE

James 2:1-13

PAT NEMMERS

November 19, 2023

The questions below are designed to be used by Saylorville Church Community Groups as they meet during the week following the Sunday morning message at Saylorville. The intent is not for groups to answer every question, but for leaders to use the questions as a guide as they tailor the discussion to the unique needs of their group. The Sunday message and these questions can be found each week at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

WANT MORE CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY?

- Check out this free [Verse-by-Verse Bible Commentary](http://www.StudyLight.org), available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an [overview video of the Book of James](http://www.BibleProject.com), available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Did you have a favorite teacher or coach? Why was he/she special to you?
- Have you felt left out, overlooked, or like someone else was always preferred? Talk to your group about how you handled that situation and the way it affected you.

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- **Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- **Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- **Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Pastor Pat reminded us of four reasons to choose mercy over favoritism.**

Why Choose Mercy Over Favoritism?

Because when we do, we become more like Jesus (James 2:1-4)

- Look quickly at Mark 1:40-42. From what you know of the historical context, why were Jesus's actions so unthinkable? Can you think of several other times when Jesus interacted with people who were "unlovely" by the world's standards?
- What can you specifically learn from the way Jesus loved those who the world cast aside? If you need a reminder, read through last week's passage again - James 1:26-27.

Because God has chosen the lessor to make His glory greater (James 2:5-8)

- The Apostle Paul had to warn the Corinthians about favoritism in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. What do you think Paul might have said to Saylorville Church if he spent a week with us?
- C.S. Lewis said, "There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." Be honest, who are some people in your life that you tend to consider "ordinary"? What could you do this week to show those people that they aren't "mere mortals", but valued as God's image bearers?

Because favoritism is sin - a great sin (James 2:9-11)

- Why don't we tend to think of favoritism as a sin in the same way we think of lying, stealing, murder, etc.? What might change in our culture, in our church, or in your local community if we did?
- How do you react to this quote by R.K. Hughes? "Favoritism indicates the tilt of one's soul."

Because on Judgement Day, God will use your mercy as His measure (James 2:12-13)

- If Matthew 25:40 is true (and it is!), then our lives will be measured, in part, by how merciful we are in this life. Who are some people in your life who are merciful? Are you?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your group would be convicted of favoritism and discover ways to be merciful this week.

