

GET WISDOM!

James 3:13-18

PAT NEMMERS

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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**, available through www.StudyLight.org.
- Watch an **overview video of the Book of James**, available from www.BibleProject.com.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Have you ever made a mistake at your job and had to be corrected? How about at school or at home? How did you respond to that conversation? How do you tend to respond to correction or confrontation?

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 taught us three general truths about wisdom, and then unpacked the two "wisdoms" found in Scripture.**

Three Truths About Wisdom

1. **Wisdom is timeless**

- Can you think of a piece of wisdom that was true in your life years ago and is still true today?

2. **Wisdom is ageless**

- Who are some wise people in your life that are in a different stage of life than you (maybe older or younger than you)? What have you learned from them? Have you thanked them for their wisdom?

3. **Wisdom is multifaceted**

- It involves knowledge, understanding, and experience. What are the dangers of only focusing on one or two of the aspects of wisdom and not all three?

The Two Wisdoms (WisDUMB and Wisdom)

1. **Wisdom from below (James 3:14-16)**

- James calls this kind of wisdom "earthly, sensual, and demonic." Look at verse 16 - what does this kind of "wisdom" ultimately lead to?
- Be honest, when you think back to recent days in your own life, can you think of times when you have been characterized by *jealousy, selfishness, divisiveness, or worldliness*?

2. **Wisdom from above (James 3:17-18)**

- James lists several characteristics of "wisdom from above" in these two verses. Which of these characteristics are easiest for you to imitate? Which are the hardest?
 - *Pure* - Above reproach before God and others
 - *Peaceable* - Able to defuse and deescalate potentially volatile situations
 - *Gentle* - Knowing when to relax a strict standard in order to keep the spirit of the law
 - *Open to reason* - Willing to yield, ready to admit when you may be wrong or moving too fast
 - *Full of mercy and good fruits* - Actions that show others God's grace
 - *Impartial* - Love for others who are different than you
 - *Sincere* - Un-hypocritical, authentic, real. Not wearing a mask or putting up a false front

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

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that God will cause you to live in a way that can be characterized as wisdom from above.

