

TRUE WISDOM JAMES 3:13-18

¹³ *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

Real Wisdom Shows Up In Our Life:

Seven Traits Of True Wisdom - A Wisdom Checklist:

1. _____ and _____ integrity
2. _____
3. _____
4. Willing to _____
5. Full of _____
6. _____
7. _____

How To Get Wisdom: James 1:5

Small Group Discussion Guide

Based on James' definition of wisdom, how wise are you? Who do you consider wise?

If you need important personal advice or counsel, what are the qualities you look for in the person you seek out?

What keeps people from choosing god's wisdom in every area of life?

Often we judge a person as wise by what he or she says. James obviously considers words important (3:1-12), but he insists that wisdom is inseparable from how one lives. Why is that important in our context of celebrities, experts, and information overload?

What strikes you about James' description of “from below” wisdom in verses 14-16?

Consider an instance in your life when what you and perhaps others thought was “wise” turned out to be earthly rather than divine wisdom. What did you learn from that situation?

Why do jealousy and selfish ambition create opportunities for disorder and vile practices?

As you read the qualities of true wisdom in verse 17, which one/s surprise you? Which are the most challenging for you to embody?

James directly connects wisdom, peacemaking and righteousness (vv. 17, 18). Does a wise peacemaker avoid conflicts at all costs? What is the difference between peace-keeping and peace-making? How does righteousness fit in this mix?

None of us have fully arrived at wisdom in every area of life. What evidences of wisdom can you affirm in other members of your group?

Which of the traits on the “Wisdom Checklist” do you think you disregard most often? What steps could you take to be more mindful of those traits this week?

As you think back on the sermon, was there a principle or idea that you found clarifying, challenging or confusing?