

James 3:13-18 - Small Group Questions

Opener: Share with the group a time where you were sure you were right about something, but later you found out you were wrong.

Read James 3:13-18

1. Jesus encouraged people to come and learn from him because he was “gentle and humble in heart” (Matt. 11:29). Paul asserted his authority as an apostle and teacher after invoking “the meekness and gentleness of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:1). Why do you think humility or meekness is such an essential sign of wisdom?
2. How many types of wisdom does James reference in this passage? What is the origin of the types of wisdom mentioned?
3. Contrast the wisdom that is “earthly, spiritual, and of the devil” (3:14-16) with the wisdom that comes from God (3:17-18) in the space below.

Wisdom from Above	Wisdom from Below

4. In contrast to those who make disorder (3:16) you have those who make peace (3:17-18). In light of 3:13-18 what do you think it means to be a peacemaker?
5. Sowing in peace produces a harvest of righteousness (3:18). Why do you suppose peacemaking and righteousness are connected like this?
6. This passage shows wisdom as dealing more with character and conduct. When you pray for wisdom (James 1:5) do you generally ask God to guide you into right character or into right choices?

7. All the good traits of 3:17-18 spring from acquiring heavenly wisdom and ridding ourselves of devilish wisdom. How can you cultivate heavenly wisdom this week?
 - 7.1. Are there any traits or habits you need to repent of? If so write them down and confess them to God
 - 7.2. What else can you do to grow in heavenly wisdom? Be as specific about your plans as possible. (Some scriptures you might want to look at: Job 28:28; Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 8:12; Romans 8:5-5; James 1:5-8.)