

Seek First

The Kingdom of God

HEAVENLY WISDOM

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The Chapel

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PERSONAL STUDY _____

Scripture Passage: 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

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS _____

Directions: Use this for your personal devotion time and/or to prepare for your Small Group discussion. Read the passage and record your observations.

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage? _____

2. What main life application question does the passage address/answer? _____

3. What is one way you can apply it this week? _____

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GROUP STUDY

Directions: Use **BOTH** the personal and group questions for your group's discussion.

OPENER – Share a specific situation where you faced a challenge in applying Godly wisdom. What happened?

Q1 – True Wisdom:

a. James 3:13 (ESV) says, "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show works in the meekness of wisdom." Here, "meekness" refers to gentleness humility. Consider this: Godly wisdom is meant to be demonstrated without deliberately drawing attention to oneself or expecting recognition for one's actions.

- How do you feel about doing good works without seeking or receiving praise or rewards?
- What makes this hard to do?
- Why is this important for faith and character?

b. How do we know when we are exercising true wisdom? Refer to James 3:17.

Q2 – Earthly Wisdom:

a. James 3:14 says bitter jealousy and selfish ambition are opposite to true wisdom.

- What do bitter jealousy and selfish ambition look like in everyday life?
- How can we recognize and stop these feelings when they begin to surface?
- How might cultivating true wisdom, as described by James, help fight these negative traits? Can you share any examples from your own life?

b. James 3:15 describes earthly wisdom as "earthly, unspiritual, demonic." Based on this:

- How might "earthly wisdom" show up in someone's actions and choices?
- Why do you think James uses such strong language, particularly the term "demonic," to describe this type of wisdom? What does this imply about its nature and consequences?
- How is this different from "wisdom from above"?

Q3 – Exercising Wisdom:

a. James emphasizes the importance of true wisdom.

- What specific habits or practices might help us develop true wisdom?
- What obstacles might we face in pursuing this wisdom, and how can we overcome them?

b. James 3:17 describes the wisdom from above as "pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." Based on this:

- How would someone with this wisdom act at home, work, or in their community?
- How is this different from what the world usually calls "wise" or "successful"?
- What makes it hard to follow this kind of wisdom today?