

# OF JAMES

James - Part 4

*Mercy in Mind*

Pastor Rich Harris

3.10.19

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

### **James 2:1 NLT**

My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

### **James 2:2-4 NLT**

For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. **3** If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, **4** doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

### **James 2:12-13 ESV**

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

1. **Speak and act with mercy in mind**

## James 2:12-13 ESV

So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. **13** For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

### 2. Keep coming back to the cross

## TALK IT THROUGH

**Big idea:** James was writing to the believers about the problem of discrimination and showing partiality. These have no place in the church, and they directly oppose the gospel, which opens to ALL people complete forgiveness and reconciliation to God through Jesus.

1. (Icebreaker) Who was the most interesting person you've ever entertained?
2. Read together James 2:1-13 (they are *not* all listed above). Discuss some of the ways we can discriminate or show partiality. Where is it rampant in our society, but where are we vulnerable to it as well?
3. What does verse 9 say about favoritism or partiality?
4. What is the goal of our relationships and interactions with people, according to verse 8? How do you want to be loved?
5. Pastor Rich encouraged us to speak and act with mercy (kindness and compassion) in mind. If that isn't your default or natural response in dealing with challenging people, how can we grow in this? (See also Galatians 5:22-24 and consider the relationship between kindness and the Holy Spirit.)
6. Discuss this truth from verse 13 that "mercy triumphs over judgement." What Christ accomplished at the cross on our behalf, is mercy triumphing over judgment. How can remembering what Jesus has done for us, when we deserved judgment, help us expand our capacity to love our neighbor as ourselves?
7. Who is someone you want to reach out to this week and make sure they feel love instead of judgment?