

12/07

# HOME GROUP GUIDE

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

### ***LISTEN***

Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)



### ***REFLECT***

Prayerfully answer the questions below



### ***DISCUSS***

Meet with your group to discuss



### ***RESPOND***

Apply the truth of God's word to your life

## **BACKGROUND:**

James tells us that our knowledge of what is right must influence our behavior. In this passage, James uses "the world" to describe "the way the world behaves" – the pattern of life, desires, and expectations that naturally motivate our thoughts and actions. He knows that if you simply go along with this flow without reflection, adopting habits from your surroundings, you're likely to become "friends" with this "world."

Wisdom is more than having profound insight; it must be reflected in righteous living and loving relationships. Every choice has consequences. Those whose faith aligns with wisdom will stand against the ways of the world. Standing out and being different requires courage, thoughtful decision-making, and determination.

## **OPEN:**

1. What is some of the wisest advice you have been given? If you were looking for wisdom or advice, who would you go to first?

## **REFLECT:**

2. Read James 3:13-18. According to James, what traits characterize a truly wise person? What kinds of attitudes are produced by worldly, counterfeit wisdom (vv.14-16)?

3. Read James 4:1-10. What does James suggest is the source of fighting and conflict? How does this challenge the idea that "worldliness" is only something that corrupts us through external influences?

4. What does it mean to be “double-minded” (v.8)? How does humility combat double-mindedness?

**APPLY:**

5. What are some commonly accepted habits or values from the world that believers might be tempted to go along with without much thought?

6. Which areas of your life tend to be most influenced by selfish pride? What is one step you can take this week to acknowledge your limits and depend on Christ in this area?

7. Who is someone in your life you’re experiencing a strained relationship with? How can you rely on God to improve that relationship?

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