

CAC LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

James: Faith in Real Life – October 26, 2025

Big Idea: Do not show favoritism

Ice Breaker: Name your favorite candy, movie, animal, band, and/or vacation destination.

Key Points

Take a few minutes to review the key points from this week's sermon.

- Favoritism should not happen in our church or in our personal lives
- All people have equal value and deserve to be honored because they were created in the image of God rather than because of what they have or do
- So-called "little sins" are still sin, and favoritism is sin
- God's law is not a threat of judgment but a law of freedom
- External experiences deceive, but God looks at the heart
- Our obedience should flow from gratitude for God's mercy
- Our behaviors and actions provide evidence we are His children

Discussion Questions

Based on the sermon, discuss the questions below.

- What was your biggest takeaway? What stuck out the most or moved you on a personal level?
- Did anything bother you? What questions did you have?

Making it Personal

Review with your group the impact this week's sermon made on you personally.

- When have you been treated differently because of how you look, what you do, or how you speak? Can you give an example of when you felt happy with this treatment, and an example of when you were hurt by it?
- When have you treated someone else differently for similar "external" reasons as above? Did you realize at the time you were showing favoritism?
- What are the causes of favoritism? What is the remedy?
- What are some behaviors in our culture that we might be tempted to see as "little sins" or no big deal? What does James say about this?
- When you meet someone new, what's the first thing you notice: their appearance or their heart?
- When others experience you, do they sense God's impartial love and mercy through your words and actions, or something else?
- How easy or challenging is it for you to demonstrate mercy to others? Who is it easiest for you to show mercy to? Who is it the most difficult to show mercy to?

Scripture Review

Revisit some of the scripture passages from this week and discuss the questions below.

- James 2:1-13, Mark 12:28-31
- Is the situation James describes from the distant past, or something still a part of the Christian culture today?
- What does James call those who discriminate among themselves in verse 4?
- What are the 2 greatest commandments? Why do you think these 2 are the greatest, and why is love so crucial?

Diving Deeper

Use the verses below to dive into other passages of scripture that relate to the primary scripture passage from this week's sermon.

Old Testament

- Leviticus 19:15, Exodus 23:3, Psalm 139:14, Proverbs 3:27-28, Proverbs 21:3, Nehemiah 13:14, Isaiah 43:7, 1 Samuel 16:7

New Testament

- Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, Matthew 5:7, 1 Timothy 5:21, Acts 10:34-35, Galatians 3:28, 2 John 1:6, John 13:34-35, Matthew 22:37-39

How do these scripture passages align with the scripture from the sermon? Do you see any contradictions between passages? If so, can you explain why this is?

Application & Action

It is important to take the knowledge you gain and see how it can become an actionable step that the Holy Spirit can use to produce transformation in your life.

The Bible is clear that favoritism is not God's will for our lives. Favoritism is inconsistent with God's character. Partiality for or against anyone is inconsistent with faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to show you any hidden prejudice in your life so that you can repent. Ask the Spirit to help you see people as God does and love others as Jesus did.

- **Listening to Jesus:** James says "judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful." Does this verse convict you in any way? How can you practice humility in conversations with people you disagree with? How can you prepare yourself to extend mercy to someone else? Can you think of times someone showed you mercy? How about when God has?
- **Walking with Him:** Faith without works is a dead faith because lack of works reveals an unchanged life or a spiritually dead heart. How is your faith demonstrated in your works? Does how you live reveal what you believe? We should walk in obedience to God and see a difference from sinful patterns of behavior in the past. Don't let a busy schedule or mixed-up priorities keep you from doing good works this week. Pick something to serve the Lord and do it!
- **Anchoring in His Word:** Select a verse or two to re-read throughout the week reminding you how all people have equal value, and are made in the image of God (ex: Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:14)
- **Leaning on His People:** Ask a close friend or family member about how unnoticed favoritism may have crept into your life. Accept their observations and feedback with grace and thanks. Take time to ponder and pray about how you have shown favoritism and ask God to lead you away from this sin.
- **Growing in His Likeness:** Think about how favoritism may influence your thinking and actions. Identify one or two times you have been tempted to show partiality. What was the root cause? Why were you tempted? How will you improve in this area? How can you grow in loving people who disagree with you politically, socially, or culturally?
- **Action Step:** Train yourself out of favoritism. This week at church, instead of going straight to your regular group of friends to chat, who is someone different you could seek out and talk to?

Daily 2-Minute Practice: Overcome favoritism

- **Pause (30 seconds):** Reflect quietly and ask God to reveal what areas of your life you need to repent of for the sin of favoritism.
- **Pray (1 minute):** Pray for the person or people you have treated unfairly or judged. Maybe you have a bias towards a group of people who think, behave, or believe differently from you. Ask God to soften your heart towards them.

- Practice (30 seconds): Speak and act in ways that demonstrate mercy to the person or people group you may have acted sinfully towards in the past. Seek out someone you have avoided, talked down to, or disagreed with, and have an intentional, friendly conversation.

Prayer

Close your group time together with prayer.