

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

JAMES

These questions are for the **August 2, 2015 Sermon**, "Sources of Wisdom" Please read the sermon passage (James 3:13-18) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

NOTE THE DISTINCTIVES OF . . .

1. **Wisdom which comes from below** (13-16)
 - A. The conditions of earthly wisdom (14)
 - i. It comes through bitter jealousy, selfish ambition and false beliefs.
 - B. The descriptions of earthly wisdom (15)
 - i. It is earthly, unspiritual and demonic.
 - C. The results of earthly wisdom (16)
 - i. Lack of order, wrestling against God.
2. **Wisdom which comes from above** (17-18)
 - A. It is pure (and all the other characteristics flow from purity) (17)
 - B. The results of wisdom from above:
 - i. A harvest of righteousness that flows from a heart of peace.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: It is wise to make wise people your friends and to live in the fellowship of wisdom. Do you purposefully seek out friendships with people who are wise? (Proverbs 13:20) How has the fellowship of wisdom impacted your convictions and decisions through your life?
2. Based on #1, above: Wisdom is characterized by meekness: "strength under control." Powerful forces (like wild animals, prescription drugs and the wind) can be destructive, but when harnessed and "under control," they provide great blessing. Is there any area of your life that is could be characterized as out of control? How can we help you?
3. We will often define wisdom in earthly terms, with motives of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition (in our hearts). But wisdom from above (vv. 17-18) is first "pure" (or free from earthly contamination). How has your understanding of wisdom been impacted by the struggle between your flesh and the Spirit? Selfish vs. heavenly?
4. Based on #2, above: The wise person gets understanding from heaven and lives out the principles even if it does not benefit them. Where are you living out heaven's principles even though it is not easy?
5. The wise person's life is characterized by a harvest of righteousness (what we get at the end of our lives or "in due season") which is sown in peace. Which season are you in? Sowing wisely in peace? Or experiencing a harvest of righteousness?