



## Wise and Understanding

James 3:13-18 | Kevin Yule

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. In James 3:13, what does James specify as acceptable evidence of someone who is truly “wise and understanding”?
2. Why do you think James emphasizes conduct over words or claims of wisdom?

### EXAMINING MOTIVES AND ATTITUDES

3. What are some of the ways you’ve seen jealousy or selfish ambition show up in your friendships, workplace, church, or families?
4. Can selfish ambition be mistaken for strong leadership or confidence? How?
5. Which is harder for you personally – recognizing selfish motives or jealousy in yourself or in others? Why?

### APPLYING THE QUALITIES OF WISDOM

6. Looking at the characteristics of “wisdom from above” listed in verse 17 (pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere), which do you find most challenging to live out? Which comes more naturally (easily)?

7. What does it look like for you to be “open to reason” during a disagreement with:

- Your spouse
- Your children
- A member of your Life Group

8. How can mercy and purity (as defined by Pastor Kevin) shape the way you respond to people who disagree with you or offend you?

### LIVING ON MISSION

9. When you reflect on your recent decisions or interactions, what kind of fruit do you see – peace and order, or tension and disorder?

10. What is one specific step you can take this week to practice wisdom from above rather than acting out of self-interest?