

life group study guide

BRICK AND MORTAR

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“Start Digging”

Big Idea:

Today's lesson is titled: Wisdom is more about who you are than what you do

What an interesting concept. Who we are over what we do.
How does that stand up against that other great "proverb?" Actions speak louder than words.

In his notes Matt wrote about going deeper into our foundations, and that unstable foundations are the result of deeper issues.
Matt also spoke of bitterness- and how it can divide or affect a Christian's way of thinking.

Q) What are some of the 'deeper issues' that Christians can become bitter about.

Q) How do these issues keep us from growing in genuine wisdom?

Q) What are the ways we see this bitterness revealed?

Q) Have you known anyone that had a deeper issue of bitterness in their lives over anything?

Q) How did it affect the people around them?

Let's read James 4:1-3

Let's look at these three verses one at a time:

Verse 1- What are some of the desires that battle within us?

Verse 2- I doubt that many of us have physically killed someone, so what is James talking about here? Physical death? Spiritual death? The 'murder' of a good friendship?

Envious and not receiving leading to quarrels- Have you ever encountered that among Christians? How about now in our country? Are we seeing that played out anywhere?

What about disagreements between Christians over issues or concerns. Can Christians have "quarrels" that remain good natured, or don't become contentious? Can we disagree without becoming like the world?

You do not have because you do not ask... There is loaded statement- What is he saying?

Verse 3 - You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives... This is a subject Christians have been fighting over since James wrote his letter. So-

Q) What is James speaking of here? Let's dive into this- what kinds of wrong motives?

There was once a boy who wanted a bike, so he asked God for a bike. But when his mother explained that God doesn't really work like that he went out and stole one, and then prayed for forgiveness.

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The study is about wisdom-- How does having Godly wisdom help us in our need to have or obtain proper motives in asking?

Read James 1:5-8

The reality is we need wisdom, true wisdom. To survive in the world, to know God's will for us, to offer advice, or help to those in need. To know when to speak, and more importantly to know when not to speak.

...If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God who give it freely...