



Sermon Discussion Guide

07.06.25 Message | Chuck Sackett | James 3:13-18

Key Scripture (ESV):

"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

- James 3:13–18

Message Highlights:

- True wisdom is revealed through how we live, not just what we know.
 - Earthly wisdom often seeks power, status and control—wisdom from above does not.
 - Heavenly wisdom cultivates peace, mercy and sincerity in our relationships.
 - Our daily conduct reflects the source of our wisdom—whether it's from above or from below.
 - Peacemaking is a non-negotiable expression of godly wisdom within the church and community.
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CONVERSATION STARTER

What's the worst "wise" advice you ever received—and did you follow it?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- Chuck said during the sermon that “wisdom shows itself in how we live.” Where do you see that to be true in your life or in others’ lives?
 - During the message, Chuck challenged us to consider whether we’re more interested in being right or being at peace. How do you tend to respond in conflict?
 - At one point, Chuck described earthly wisdom as power-seeking and self-promoting. How does that kind of thinking creep into our daily decisions?
 - Chuck quoted, “Wisdom is not an academic topic.” How does our culture confuse intellect with wisdom?
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THINK DEEPER *(Does your group understand the passage?)*

- Why do you think James begins with a question in verse 13? What does that reveal about his intent? (*James 3:13*)
 - How do jealousy and selfish ambition lead to “disorder and every vile practice”? (*James 3:16*)
 - What does it practically look like to be “pure, peaceable, and open to reason” in your home or work life? (*James 3:17*)
 - What does it mean that wisdom is “sown in peace by those who make peace”? (*James 3:18*)
 - How can we tell whether the wisdom we follow is truly from above? (*James 3:15–17*)
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THINK LIFE CHANGE *(Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)*

- Where does your wisdom come from—daily influences or daily time with God?
 - Based on Chuck’s message, which trait of heavenly wisdom do you most need to grow in right now?
 - What patterns in your life reflect selfish ambition more than humility? How do you deal with them? What are some ways in which you can deal with them beginning this week?
 - Identify a specific person, meeting or situation this week where you can bring a spirit of gentleness. How do you plan ahead for this moment?
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THINK ENGAGE *(Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)*

- How can you intentionally model heavenly wisdom in a high-stress environment you frequent?
 - What would it look like to be a peacemaker in your neighborhood or workplace this month?
 - Where can you invite others to experience a sincere, wise community through your example?
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THINK KINGDOM *(Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)*

- How does reflecting heavenly wisdom reshape your understanding of success, power and influence?
- In what areas of life could God be calling you to be a symbol of unity where there may be division?