

A #Hack4Faith Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment
The Letter of James

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing." James 1:4

Discussion Six: *Genuine in Wisdom*, James 3:13-18.

Key Phrase: *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, reasonable, full of compassion and good fruits. It is unwavering, without hypocrisy. " James 3:17*

1. Discussion Scenario:

- a. We find ourselves in situations with colleagues at work, decisions that need to be made in the present and for the future, and where we need not to speak or need to speak the right words to family members or friends as they navigate the challenges of life – we need wisdom! In all of these, what's the right response? What does wisdom even look like – would we know it if we saw it? Is it available to just a few enlightened ones? Or can we, ordinary people, attain wisdom? And if so, is there a way for us to be confident that we have "wisdom from above" when we interact and respond in these situations?

2. Wisdom from above:

- a. Read James 3:13-18, [James 3:13-18 AMP - Wisdom from Above - Who among you is - Bible Gateway](#). (This is the "Amplified" version that "amplifies" the text with the Greek meaning of various words or phrases with additional words/phrases in [] or () to provide further insight.)

3. Digging in:

- a. Looking at wisdom in the broadest terms:
 - i. Do a Web search/research on the word wisdom – from this, write your definition of wisdom.
 1. Your definition of wisdom:
 - ii. From your research, how do you see that wisdom is attained? Is wisdom simply a formal education or amassing knowledge? What do you see as the components that constitute wisdom?
 1. Your thoughts:
- b. Framing some questions for discussion:
 - i. From the James 3:13-18 passage, focus on some specific words or word phrases that he uses to describe root attitudes and their resulting behaviors. Then, write at

least three questions you would like the group to discuss. These are questions that you may or may not have an answer to, but you'd like the group to discuss them.

1. Question 1:
 - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
2. Question 2:
 - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
3. Question 3:
 - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?
4. Question 4:
 - a. What verse(s) does this question come from?

c. Broadening our scriptural perspective on wisdom:

- i. From your own favorite verses or using this online resource, <https://biblescan.com/search.php?q=wisdom> (this search can be further filtered by clicking on NT, OT, etc. above the search box), write three or four additional scriptures/passages that provide practical guidance and insight into wisdom.
 1. Scripture 1 and reference:
 - a. In what way does this enable wisdom in our life?
 2. Scripture 1 and reference:
 - a. In what way does this enable wisdom in our life?
 3. Scripture 1 and reference:
 - a. In what way does this enable wisdom in our life?
 4. Scripture 1 and reference:
 - a. In what way does this enable wisdom in our life?

4. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b. Being "genuine in wisdom" -- what two actions can you take this week?
 - i.
 - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer to your Lord Jesus Christ regarding being genuine in wisdom and growing in it.

Acknowledgement: Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.

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