



A STUDY OF JAMES

HOW FAITH WORKS IN DIVERSITY

How Faith Works-Part 4: *How Faith Works in Diversity*

James 2:1-13

Tips for using this discussion guide.

Purpose

The primary purpose of this discussion guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of a Grace Church sermon series.

Tips

- ▶ **Set the Tone:** Help create a relaxed, welcoming, expectant environment for God by greeting and learning about each other.
- ▶ **Pray:** Pray at the beginning of each meeting as well as between meetings.
- ▶ **Balance the Communication Flow:** As a group leader or a member, give opportunities for each person to engage in the discussion, instead of dominating the conversation.
- ▶ **Select the Questions:** It is not necessary to discuss all the questions or to discuss them in order. You may begin with the question that you believe will generate the most meaningful discussion for your group.
- ▶ **Say “I Don’t Know”:** The group leader does not need to have all the answers. Saying “I don’t know” is an acceptable answer in small group meetings.

Discussion Questions

1. Read James 2:1-4.
 - Read Proverbs 24:23 and Proverbs 28:21. What is the danger of showing partiality in judgment?
 - Read John 7:24 and 1Timothy 5:21. What personal characteristics do you notice about people that might influence how you view them?
 - Read 1Samuel 16:7. What does God look for in a person?

2. Read James 2:5-9.
 - Read Psalm 41:1 and Proverbs 22:9. In what ways does the Lord reward those who are kind to the poor?
 - Read Proverbs 13:7, Proverbs 19:1, and Proverbs 22:1. What are true riches?

3. Read James 2:10-13.
 - Read Matthew 5:7 and Matthew 6:15. Why should we be merciful?
 - Read Galatians 3:10-12 and Romans 13:8-10. Compare the two life approaches:
 - 1) Operate by a list of 'what not to do.'
 - 2) Do whatever it takes to love your neighbor as yourself.Which approach would most likely demonstrate your faith? Explain why.