



True Wisdom **JAMES 3:13-18** Message Reflection Guide

We do appreciate the wise scientific contributions men like Aristotle, Galileo, Isaac Newton, Thomas Edison have made. But the Bible speaks of true wisdom that is a different kind of wisdom: the kind of wisdom that enables us to live in the same house with another person, get along in the workplace and coexist with individuals that have different customs, up-bringing's and beliefs than we do. God's wisdom has 3 qualities that start with the letter G. They are Growth, Gentleness and Generosity.

We need to invite Jesus to take up residence in our lives and change our way of thinking. We need the wisdom from heaven to come down to us! Otherwise, we are going to find ourselves continuing to act selfishly, we are to continue to be inconsiderate of others and engage in behaviors we later regret or feel guilty about. It's only when we open ourselves up to the daily leading of the Holy Spirit that we can begin to conquer the sinful desires that reside within us.

Conversation Starter Who is one of the wise mentors in your life or career development?

Getting Into The Scriptures Read James 3:13-18

Bob reminded us "We are all born sinners." Verse 14 talks about "bitter envy and selfish ambition in the heart" and verse 15 "earthly, unspiritual and demonic" in the NIV. What evidence of this sinful nature do you see in yourself, your children and in the world around us?

In contrast, James talks about doing things with humility in verse 13. As you reflect back over your life, can you think of a time when you learned humility?

True wisdom is characterized by gentleness and consideration of other individual's points of view. As you interacted with other people in this past week: what is one insight you learned (or were reminded of) from what others shared in a conversation?

Jesus wisdom and example illustrated showing audacious love and generosity to individuals whom others had often ignored like prostitutes, tax collectors, lepers, etc. Iron Mill Church showed generous concern for several needy children at Christmas. But it's a few months later now. Who around us is in need of our generosity and compassion today?

Making It Real

Earthly wisdom and godly wisdom are vastly different. Challenging life experiences remind us how much we need God's power and wisdom. So, how can we help each other persevere as we face challenges? And how can we help each other pursue the qualities of gentleness and generosity in our everyday lives?