

James 2:1-13

How to Treat People Right!

Life Group Study Guide

Sugar Grove Church of Christ

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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?
*(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. **This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a "low" that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.**)*

Memory Verse:

If you really keep the royal law found in scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing right."

James 2:8

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

Grow:

- Read James 2:1-4
- What does it mean to show favoritism to someone? How do we know if we are showing favoritism?
- The Bible speaks about showing favoritism throughout its pages. Read Leviticus 19:15
- Why is it important to judge your neighbor fairly?
- Read Romans 2:11
- What does Romans 2:11 tell us about showing favoritism? *(it is ungodly)*
- Read James 2:5-7

- Why has God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to inherit the kingdom he promised? *(because those who are poor in the eyes of the world have nothing in this world to put their hope in but God.)*
- Aside from the fact that God says we are not to show favoritism what is the problem that James describes in verses 5-7 with insulting the poor and showing favoritism to the rich? *(ultimately the problem is that our attitude will be influenced by that of the rich and not of the poor, and it is the poor who will inherit the kingdom. See Philippians 2:5-11)*
- Read James 2:8-13
- There are two very significant words in verse 12, “speak” and “act”, that are written to believers in Jesus Christ (see James 2:1). What is James encouraging these believers to “speak” and how is he encouraging them to “act”? *(with mercy!)*
- What happens to a believer who is unwilling to show mercy but only judgment to those around him? *(he will be judged by the law without mercy so that ultimately his belief was meaningless because his belief had nothing to do with his attitude which affects how a person speaks and acts—faith in God and belief in Jesus Christ must express itself through our actions.)*

Serve:

- Does our church have anyone we show favoritism to or that we judge? If so who?
- Do you show favoritism to someone or to certain groups? If so who or which groups do you show favoritism to?
- What can we do to “speak” and “act” with mercy to everyone? How can we help each other do that? What are some specific steps we can take?

Share:

- As a group, spend a few minutes evaluating how you are doing in loving and accepting others in your Life Group, at church, and in your personal life.
- Explore the ways in which your group can ensure that new and existing members feel acceptance, appreciation, and affirmation when they are with your group.

Worship:

- Ask the group to close their eyes and think of one way in which God has shown mercy to them.
- Now ask the group to open their eyes and if they are willing share how God has shown mercy to them.
- Close your time by sharing prayer requests with each other and close in prayer.

Preparation for Next Time:

- Read James 2:14-26