



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Mirrors: The Book of James - Show No Partiality

INTRODUCTION

This weekend we studied a passage in James on partiality. James specifically addresses showing partiality to the rich over the poor. This is directly going against God's command to love your neighbor as yourself. One of the implications of Jesus' death on the cross is that we have been made a new family in Christ. When we show partiality, we are looking at this new family with the world's eyes and not God's.

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you in this week's sermon?
2. Was there anything that you heard that you had never heard before?
3. When you think of the word "faith" what comes to mind?

INVESTIGATING SCRIPTURE

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read James 2:1-13

Observation

1. In James 2:1-7, how are these Christians showing partiality?
2. How does James describe the rich and the poor in this passage?

Interpretation

1. Why is showing partiality wrong in God's eyes?
2. What is James trying to get his audience to see when he says that "God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith?"
3. How does a right view of God eliminate our desire to show partiality?

Application

1. What are some areas of your life where you show partiality?
2. What are some practical steps you can take to try and eliminate partiality in your life?

PRAYER

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

Psalm 95:6-7 - Oh come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Jesus has redeemed us into a new family. One day when Jesus returns we will spend eternity with this family worshipping our King. Today we get a taste of what that day will be like when we gather with other Christian brothers and sisters.

1. Pray and thank God that He has redeemed us into a church family.
2. Pray for God to reveal and uproot any partiality in your heart.
3. Pray for Mercy Church to continue to grow in unity.