

Anything But Normal, Week 5

Scripture and Background Information for June 14-20.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **James 3:13-18**. As already mentioned earlier, the letter of James can be summarized as "theology in practice." James sees faith not as an abstract concept or as a philosophical worldview. Right faith is the source of right thinking, which leads to right acting. Faith leads to a lifestyle that is anything but normal.

Information's for James 3:13-18

In today's passage, James shows that faith produces the right actions. James's warning, from chapter 3:1-2, opens the context for our passage today. In today's passage, James is not concerned with what believers say, but how they live. For that, James compares true wisdom with false wisdom. It is striking that James sees real wisdom not as a theoretical concept, but as a knowledge which influences and changes the believer's life. True wisdom shows itself in the right actions. James sees wisdom not as a philosophical talk but in practical deed. The inner quality of understanding and wisdom becomes evident in one's action.

While working through your bible study, compare the two different types of wisdom that James describes in today's text. Describe the character of both types of wisdom and show the fruit of what they produce (3:14-18).

Remember: James is not trying to push a work-based faith. He writes to people who already believe. James sees the power to live a godly life in the source of the relationship with God. The wisdom, which is pure, peaceable... (3:17), is a wisdom which is not created by the believer himself, but which comes from above. Combine James's teaching of chapter 1:5-6 with today's passage to see the source for the wisdom from above. James pushes the practical part of faith. He sees a contradiction in a life of right faith, which does not influence the practical life.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

June 28

James 4:1-10

July 5

James 4:13-17