

JAMES

MARK IT UP

James 2:1-13 Discussion Guide

Week of 3/27/22

Icebreaker: Have you ever been in a place where favoritism was occurring? What was going on, and how did it make you feel?

Getting Started: Read James 2:1-13 as a group.

1. Based on the passage, what do you think James means as he uses the word “partiality” or “favoritism”?

Application: Why do you think we show favoritism in the first place? What motivates it?

2. James says that partiality has led to “distinctions among yourselves” and that they’ve “become judges with evil thoughts.” How does partiality or favoritism lead to these problems?

Application: If you have seen favoritism in the church, what kind of damage did it do?

3. James points out the folly of partiality in verses 5-7. How would you summarize his argument in these verses?

Application: Verse 5 points us to God’s heart for the poor and marginalized of our world. How would you assess your own concern for those that society tends to ignore?

4. James singles out the “royal law” and the call to “love your neighbor as yourself” in verse 8. In what way is this command relevant to the issue of favoritism?

Application: This command is at the core of Calvary’s mission (see the “footer” on each page of these notes). What happens when a church fully embraces this command to love our neighbor as ourselves? What happens when it fails to do so?

5. Verses 12-13 are short but profound. What do you think it means that “judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy,” yet, “Mercy triumphs over judgment”?

Application: Let's not move on without considering how we may be participating in showing favoritism. Perhaps there's room here to admit how we have been judging others based on some surface-level reason. If so, take time to confess it to God and consider how you might confess and ask for forgiveness from those who have been mistreated.