

### Next Steps:

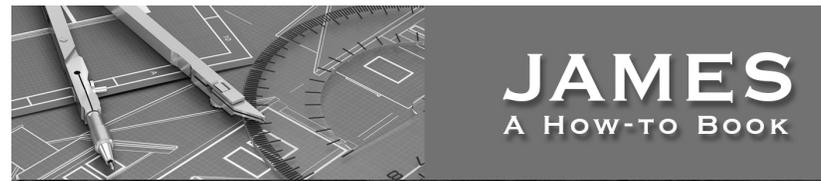
- ❑ I have been living by the wisdom of the world rather than by godly wisdom.
- ❑ With God's help, I will to develop the fruit of wisdom in my life (3:17).
- ❑ I will strive to be a peacemaker, sowing a harvest of righteousness (3:18).

### Memory Verse – James 3:17-18

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace*

**Next Week: James 4:1-6 – How to Still the Battle Within**

### Prayer Requests



## James: A “How To” Manual for Life

***This Week: How to Spot True Wisdom  
James 3:13-18***

**So Far:** James encouraged his readers to joyfully endure the trials of life, to develop steadfastness and maturity in their lives. They can ask God for wisdom, because he gives generously and without reproach. The one who remains steadfast under trial will be blessed and will receive the crown of life.

Believers should be doers of God's word and not hearers only, quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. They need to bridle their tongues, take care of the needy, and remain unstained by the world. They should not show partiality to the rich while neglecting the poor. He called them to fulfill the royal law of neighborly love.

James then emphasized the symbiotic relationship between faith and works. Faith without works is dead, while faith with works brings energy to faith and makes faith complete. Believers must tame their tongues, using their word to bless and not curse.

**This Week:** James compares the wisdom that comes from above with the wisdom that does not come from above. He describes the wisdom from above and shows how it leads to peace. He describes the wisdom that does not come from above, and shows how it leads to disorder and every vile practice.

### Open

1. Who is the wisest person you've known?

What is it about them that made them wise?

## Review

### Read James 1:5-8

1. Who is the source of wisdom?
2. Why should we ask him for wisdom?
3. How should we ask for this wisdom?

### Read James 1:19-26

1. What acts of wisdom can you find in these verses?

### Read James 3:13-18

#### The Meekness of Wisdom 13

1. How can you recognize a wise person, according to James?
2. What is the connection between wisdom and meekness?
3. How do you define meekness?

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### Read Job 28:28 and Proverbs 15:33

4. How does “the fear of the Lord” relate to wisdom and meekness?

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## Reflect

5. How does your everyday conduct reflect the meekness of wisdom?
6. What could you do to reflect more of God’s wisdom?

#### Earthbound Wisdom 14-16

1. What two attitudes result from “wisdom that does not come down from above”? (They are mentioned twice, in vss. 14 & 16)
2. How does James describe this wisdom? 15
3. What do each of these mean?  
Earthly  
Unspiritual  
Demonic

4. What are two results of these attitudes and behaviors? 16

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### Read Philippians 3:18-19

How are the “enemies of the cross of Christ” described?

How does that compare to the worldly wisdom James describes?

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## Reflect

What might a church be like that is built on earthbound wisdom?

What might an individual be like whose life is built around earthbound wisdom?

#### Wisdom from Above 17

1. What attitudes and behaviors does James associate with the wisdom from above?
2. How do they compare to earthbound wisdom?

#### Peacemaking 18

1. What does it mean to sow seeds of peace?
2. Why is it important for believers to be peacemakers?
3. What did Jesus say about peacemakers? (Matthew 5:9)

## Reflect

4. Would you consider yourself a peacemaker? Why or why not?
5. Can you think of a specific situation in your life right now that needs the wisdom and peace of God?

What could you do to bring God’s wisdom and peace into that situation?

## Take-Away

What is your take away from our time together?