

Session # 3: James 2:1-13
Small Group Questions

1. Why do we play favorites? What motivates us? What do we think we will get out of it?
2. Ever been on the receiving end of “favoritism”? What effect did it have on you? On others? Have you ever been the *not*-favored one? How did that make you feel?
3. Talk about a setting in which you tend to play favorites? What came of that?
4. Does James’ example still seem relevant for you today? Have you ever seen it happen in church? In our church?
5. What does James mean when he says to indulge in favoritism is to become *judges with evil thoughts*? What “evil thoughts” does he have in mind?
6. James seems to be on the side of the poor throughout his letter (see 1:9-11, 27). Can you think of other passages of Scripture that seem to side with the poor?
7. How do you explain what James says about the rich in verses 6-7? Have you ever experienced any of this? Any examples you can think of in the news lately?
8. How can the poor be a real blessing to the church?
9. What does it look like when mercy triumphs over judgment? What has that looked like in your life—both in terms of God’s stance toward you, and, hopefully, your stance towards others?
10. Is there anything in this passage that confuses, angers or doesn’t sit right with you? Talk about that with others.
11. What is God asking of you through this passage? How can God help you to take these steps of obedience? Do we need to keep each other accountable to certain attitudes or behaviors?

Spend time praying with and for each other.