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## SUNDAY RECAP

This weekend was week 3 of 8 in our sermon series studying the **Book of James**. Before starting the discussion questions with your group, pray together and invite the Holy Spirit to be present with you as you study through this passage.

**ICEBREAKER:** Now that it's officially fall, share some of your favorite fall traditions, foods, activities, or places to visit.

**READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER:** James 2:1-13

## DISCUSS

1. Last week, Pastor Donny introduced the idea that we approach Scripture one of two ways: primarily being about us and what we should do OR primarily about Jesus and what He has done. How have you experienced this tension in our study of the book of James so far? How have you wrestled with this in general when it comes to the Bible?
2. **Favoritism is forbidden for Jesus followers.** This is both reassuring and challenging. James points out the favoritism of the rich over the poor. How do we struggle with showing special treatment to some and not others? What are the things in your life that you give privileged positions?
3. Pastor Donny shared a few reasons why discrimination is unacceptable. Revisit the list below and share which is the most challenging or convicting.
  - It is inconsistent with God's nearness to the poor
  - It is inconsistent with God's Law of Love (James 2:8, Lev 19:18, Matt 22:39)
  - It is inconsistent with how the rich typically act (oppressive, yet given special treatment)
4. James 2:13b says "**Mercy triumphs over judgment**". In other words, liberation triumphs over condemnation for those who are in Christ. How does this truth impact your view of God and your response? What's the implication for how we are to view and engage with others?
5. Consider this quote from Douglas Moo that Donny mentioned in his sermon:
 

**"God's gracious acceptance of us does not end our obligation to obey him; it sets it on a new footing. For the will of God now confronts us as a law of liberty – an obligation we discharge with joy because we stand both forgiven and empowered by the Holy Spirit."** – Douglas Moo

How do you reconcile the law of liberty and the obligation to obey God? Have you experienced joy in obedience? Do you feel both forgiven and empowered by the Spirit to live according to God's will?
6. If our church gatherings are to be a glimpse of the Kingdom of God, where there is no favoritism, no discrimination, and where mercy triumphs over judgment, what should it look like? How can you participate in making that a reality?

**PRAYER TIME:** Spend time sharing prayer requests. Invite the Holy Spirit to be at work in our hearts during this challenging series learning from James. Pray together as a group.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Meet the Missionaries** - 10/4 | 6p | Details at [fairoaks.church/missions](https://fairoaks.church/missions)
- **WFO Women's Brunch** - 10/5 | 9:30-11:30a | Details at [fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)
- **Community Food Drive** - 10/7 | Divine Savior Church | Sign up to volunteer at [fairoaks.church/missions](https://fairoaks.church/missions)
- **2024 Mission Trip Interest Meeting** - 10/15 | 11:45a | Kids Assembly Room | Details at [fairoaks.church/missions](https://fairoaks.church/missions)
- **Trunk or Treat** - 10/28 | 6-7:30p | Donate candy & sign up to decorate a trunk at [fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)

