

review it *(Revisit the weekly rituals and follow-up on the last gathering)*

- Look over the last session's Action Step Journal and ask how it went. Share as honestly as you can. It's not meant to cause shame or guilt, rather, a community of care.
- Try to recite last week's memory verse.
- Try to recite the series memory verse, James 1:22.

hear it *(Slow down and hear the Word)*

Read James 3:13-18 aloud (twice if possible, using two different translations).

- ASK: What word, phrase, or image stands out to you and why?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about God?
- ASK: What does this passage teach about humanity?

check the mirror *(Help the group examine themselves honestly by asking questions)*

- **start light**
 - What's something you've been technically right about... but later realized it wasn't worth the fight? (Directions, recipes, parenting advice, group texts, etc.)
Leader tip: Laugh together first. James is about the heart, not winning.
- **go further**
 - In verse 13, how does James say wisdom is shown?
 - What stands out to you about "deeds done in humility?"
 - James contrasts two kinds of wisdom. How would you describe "earthly wisdom" in everyday life today?
 - Where do you see it most often? (home, work, social media, church, politics)
 - Why do you think James uses such strong words like *earthly, unspiritual, demonic*?

A key idea: Wisdom is revealed more by posture than by "correctness."

- James names two warning signs: **bitter envy** and **selfish ambition**. Which of those do you tend to struggle with more?
 - How do those show up when you're in conflict or disagreement?
- The sermon said: "Wise people think being righteous is more important than being right." Why do you think that it's so hard for us?

wisdom in action (Apply wisdom principles to life situations.)

Read through the list from James 3:17 together.

1. Which one trait comes most naturally to you?
2. Which one trait is hardest when someone disagrees with you?
3. How might your relationships change if this list (not winning) was your filter?
4. What's the difference between persuading someone and *policing* them?
5. How can being peace-loving potentially increase your influence for Jesus?
6. Who is one person in your life right now where how you speak matters more than what you say?

put it to work (Move from talk to action)

This week's practice: **wisdom from heaven**.

Encourage each person to pick one trait from James 3:17 to intentionally practice this week. Before engaging in a difficult conversation this week, pause and ask a question like: "Is what I'm about to say coming from wisdom that's from heaven?"

- ASK: What trait do you want to work on?

weekly rituals (Do these in whatever order—be sure to move through them)

- Weekly Memory Verse:
"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." James 3:17
- Action Step Journal: *Be sure to take some notes here.*
- Series memory verse:
"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22