



**Title: Practical Living: Favoritism**

**Scripture: James 2:1-13**

**Date: 06102018**

**Bible Version: NKJV**

**BOTTOM LINE: There is no room for favoritism in the family of God.**

**Vs. 1**

**The faith of our Lord** - James turns his attention to those of us who are believers.

*The faith of our Lord should never be associated with discrimination. - Guzik*

**The Lord of glory** - This is an incredible statement by James. This proclamation declares Jesus as the manifestation of the divine presence.

**With partiality** - James indicates that we (as believers) should not show partiality.

*In the ancient world people were routinely categorized because they were Jew or Gentile, slave or free, rich or poor, and Greek or barbarian. - Guzik*

**Jesus came to tear down the walls that separate us and to unify us as HIS bride.**

*The irony is that the people we try to impress the most are those who care about us the least-while the people who really would be open to receiving from us are those for whom we think we don't have time. - Courson*

**Vs. 2**

**Into your assembly** - This is a reference to where the early church would meet. The Greek word for assembly is synagogue. From the perspective of James, all of the Christians he was around and wrote to came from a Jewish heritage.

**Man with gold rings, in fine apparel** - Fine apparel and gold rings would signify that someone was wealthy.

**Vs. 3,4**

**Have you not shown partiality-** If we pay attention to the one wearing fine clothes and ignore the one who is not then we are showing partiality. We can show favoritism in anyway. To do so shows our carnality.

*To show partiality shows that we care more for the outward appearance than we do upon the heart. - Guzik*

**Having possessions (or not) makes you no more or less important in the eyes of the Lord.**

**Vs. 5-7**

**Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith-** When you lack, you have an opportunity to be rich in faith. Those that lack and/or poor are usually more than ready to respond to God in faith.

*When we choose people by what we can see on the surface, we miss the mind of God. - Guzik*

**God does not call us to partiality against the poor or the rich.**

**Vs. 8**

**Royal law-** James says we should fulfill the royal law.

**Vs. 9**

**If you show partiality, you commit sin-** We can't love one neighbor and hate the next. We can't love the rich and despise the poor. There are two types of people in this world. Those who know Jesus and those who do not. We need to love both types.

**Vs. 10, 11**

**Whole law-** God cares about the whole law, not just parts.

**And yet stumble in one point-** James reminds us the difference between the law and grace. Under the law you have to do everything perfectly. If you missed one thing then you failed. You are guilty.

**As believers, we cannot have selective obedience.**

*The same God who gave the command not to commit adultery also gave the command not to commit murder. Thus these laws are linked by the action and authority of the Giver. - Guthrie*

**Vs. 12, 13**

**Mercy triumphs over judgement-** James reminds us that in our day to day lives, we should be merciful towards others.

We need to be aware of our own fleshly tendencies. - Courson.

# Parents & Kids

TAKE **HOME**

**DATE:** June 10th, 2018

## **Bible Story: James 2: 1-4**

1. "Don't judge a book by its cover" is a saying that means you shouldn't look at someone's appearance to judge the content of their heart. James also warns us not to give special attention to those with gold and fine clothes over someone who doesn't have fancy clothes or rings. How does God say we are to treat everyone?
2. The golden rule is "treat other as you would want to be treated." Another way to say this is found in James. "Love your neighbor as yourself." What does this mean? Can you give an example of what it looks like to love your neighbor as yourself?
3. When God calls people to do His will, He doesn't look at their appearance or how big they are. What does God look for?
4. God chose David to be King even though he was the youngest of Jesse's sons. Why do you think God chose him to be king over Israel?

**Memory Verse:** "People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7



June 10th, 2018

Discuss

Dig Deeper



## Practical Living: Favoritism

James 2:1-13

# 3D Guide

**DO.**

**BOTTOM LINE: There is no room for favoritism in the family of God.**



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



### DISCUSS.

1. Do you think that favoritism/partiality are issues that we deal with today? If so what are some examples?
2. What is it about our human nature that drives us to show partiality?
3. Have you been on either side of this issue? If so share.
4. What are some practical things that we can do to be aware of our own tendency to show partiality?

**DO.**



Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.

