

1UP

Week 4 small group study guide.

Read over James 3:13 – 4:12

There are two sources or reservoirs of wisdom we draw from in life. Each have certain characteristics: the world's wisdom or God's wisdom. And there is ONE key component required before we can receive God's wisdom and live the highest quality of life possible. What is it?

Dive In...

Read James 3:13-16 (NIV)

Talk about a time when you have been surprised by looking at the "outside" of someone, but later found that who they were / how they acted didn't match the "outside view" at all. Have you ever felt "judged" by others due to how you looked on the outside?

What two things in verse 13 are related as one, not two separate parts?

For further reading on Jesus' perspective on this matter read

Matthew 7:15-16

Matthew 7:20

List the attributes mentioned from James 3:13-16 that represent wisdom that is not of God. What is the result?

Pastor Ken mentioned the Flint Michigan water crisis and the delayed effect. Where have you seen a delayed effect in your life or the life of another?

Read James 4:1-4

What stands out to you and speaks to you in this section?

What does it mean to fight the battle on the inside before you can win on the outside?

Read James 3:17-18 (NLT)

List the attributes mentioned from wisdom that are from the Lord.

How do we get this wisdom? Read James 1:5-6

There is one more KEY before the door will be opened. What is it?

Read James 3:13 / James 4:7

Pastor Ken said, "Humility is to God's wisdom what pride is to sin."

We want God's wisdom, but what step must we take before He grants it? We can also choose to have pride and that often leads to sin, selfish motives, etc.

Here are some examples:

Proverbs 11:2

Matthew 23:12

Philippians 2:8-9

Talk about where you have seen this to be true in your life.

Talk about how Christ demonstrated humility during his life and ministry.

Talk about what is "attractive" to others... humility vs. pride ... and the influence each has in our living and relationships.

James 4:4

Pastor Ken described what James was referring to when he called people an "adulterous" people. Do you remember what he said?

- How do people "cheat" on God in intentional (willful) ways?
- How about in unintentional ways?

How does the above relate to Exodus 20:3 from the Ten Commandments and Matthew 6:24?

Read James 4:7-8

List some practical ways to resist and draw near.

What do you see as your responsibility?

How could the support of others help this?

Final Questions

Are there any areas or situations where you need to humble yourself or you struggle?

How's it going sowing seeds of peace?

How could you fill yourself up and give yourself away this week?