

## Equal in His Eyes

### Igual a sus ojos

**How can we avoid showing favoritism?**  
**¿Cómo podemos evitar mostrar favoritismo?**

1. Let's follow the example of \_\_\_\_\_.

Sigamos el ejemplo de \_\_\_\_\_.

James 2:1 (Santiago 2:1)

Luke 4:17-21 (Lucas 4:17-21)

2 Corinthians 8:9 (2 Corintios 8:9)

2. Let's love all our \_\_\_\_\_.

Amemos a todos nuestros \_\_\_\_\_.

James 2:8-9 (Santiago 2:8-9)

Matthew 22:36-40 (Mateo 22:36-40)

Matthew 5:43-45 (Mateo 5:43-45)

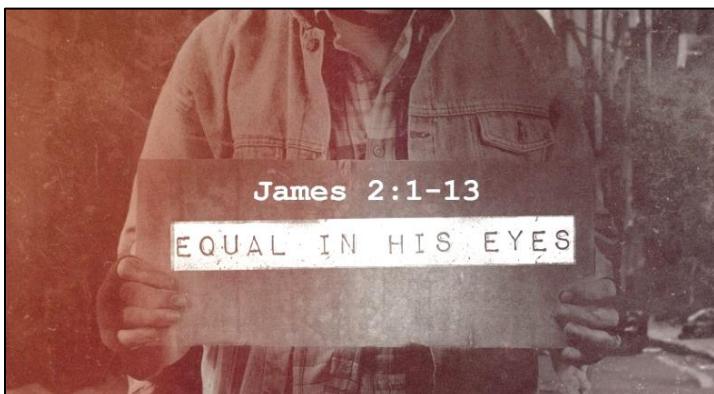
3. Let's show mercy to \_\_\_\_\_.

Mostremos misericordia a \_\_\_\_\_.

James 2:12-13 (Santiago 2:12-13)

Acts 10:34-35 (Hechos 10:34-35)

Galatians 3:26-28 (Gálatas 3:26-28)



# Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 3: May 25 – June 1

James 2:1-13

“You can’t judge a book by its cover.” However, we often make assumptions about people before getting to know them. As humans, we fail to see people the way God sees them. “The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7). When we see people who appear to be wealthy, beautiful, or athletic we tend to treat them with greater respect than those who seem to be poor, unattractive, or unskilled. In James 2:1-13, we are told not to show favoritism. All people are created in the image of God with eternal value in the eyes of God. James reminds us that we must show love to all people regardless of their outward appearance.

## Read James 2:1-13

1. What are told not to do in verse 1

Charles Swindoll notes,

The Greek word translated “personal favoritism” is *prosōpolēmpσia* [4382], a compound word that communicates the idea of “receiving the face.” What a great way to put it! You see a person’s outward appearance (his or her “face”) and you receive that image as if it’s the real thing. The word is used in the New Testament in reference to God. In Acts 10:34 Peter says, “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality.” God judges the truth of a matter by the heart, not the face. (Swindoll, 48)

2. How did James describe Jesus in verse 1?

Gary Holloway writes,

To have faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, means following the example of Jesus who brought good news to the poor (Luke 4:18). It means imitating the character of this glorious, impartial, generous God. It means Christians will not be fooled by the apparent glory of the rich but will recognize the one is truly glorious. It also means caring for orphans and widows as God himself does, thus tying this section on partiality to the pure religion discussed in 1:27. (Holloway, 55)

3. What illustration did James use to explain why we must not show favoritism? (2:2-3)
4. What kind of thoughts lead people to practice favoritism? (2:4)
5. Who did God choose to be rich in faith and inherit the kingdom? (2:5)
6. What are we doing to the poor when we show favoritism toward the rich? (2:6)
7. What is usually the financial status of those who exploit people and manipulate the courts? (2:6)
8. According to verse 7, what kind of people were slandering the name of Jesus?
9. What is the royal law found in Scripture? (2:8)

Holloway notes,

This is a royal law because it comes from the King and is the law of the kingdom the poor will inherit (v. 5). “Royal” also implies it is a supreme principle, not a petty regulation. Love of neighbor is an Old Testament law (Leviticus 19:18), occurring in the context of a prohibition against favoritism (Leviticus 19:15). Jesus calls it the second great commandment, love for God being first (Matthew 19:19; 22:39). (Holloway, 60)

10. What happens to us when we practice favoritism? (2:9)

Swindoll writes,

James couldn’t be clearer. This kind of prejudice is sin. If there’s one place where class distinctions should be broken down, it’s in our places of worship. Discrimination over color, political persuasion, financial status, fashion, or appearance doesn’t belong in the church, either inside or outside its doors, in private or in public. (Swindoll, 50)

11. How many laws do we have to break before we are considered lawbreakers? (2:10-11)
12. How did James describe God’s law in verse 12?

Holloway comments,

To James, the true purpose of the law is not to chain the evildoer but to set him free. The law of Christ gives freedom from sin but also sets one free from selfishness. It frees from fawning over the rich to gain their influence. It frees from the oppression from the rich, turning trials into joy. It frees one to love those who are unlovable by worldly standards. It frees from the constant competition and self-promotion society takes for granted.  
(Holloway, 62)

13. According to verse 13, why should we be merciful?

14. Why might someone assume that rich people are better or more important than poor people?

Kent Hughes observes,

In regard to our situation today, materialism perverts the human soul. How else do we explain how a man who steals a ham goes to jail and a man who steals an airline goes to the Senate? How else do we account for the adulation we give to selfish celebrities who spend their lives exploiting us? The answer can only be that a materialistic focus fosters spiritual derangement. (Hughes, 85)

15. If a rich and popular celebrity and a poor homeless person visited our church, how would they be treated?

16. Besides wealth, what other characteristics might tempt us to think that certain people are more important than others?

17. What will you do to guard your heart against prejudice thoughts?

18. How will you show love to those who are different from you?

#### **Sources cited:**

Holloway, Gary. *James & Jude*. College Press, 1996.

Hughes, R. Kent. *James: Faith that Works*. Crossway, 2015.

Swindoll, Charles. *Insights on James, 1 & 2 Peter*. Tyndale, 2014.