

weekly guide

james: a faith that works – week 3
pastor dre burgs



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

City Group Icebreaker: *Questions to Get You Talking*

- Think about a time where you were treated differently, for whatever reason; how did it make you feel?

Key Scriptures: *My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. James 2:1*

Big Idea of the Message: Personal favoritism is sin because true love knows no partiality.

Message Study: The Essential Inductive Questions

- How did God speak to you in the passage? What does this passage mean?
- What is God telling me? How am I encouraged and strengthened?
- Is there a sin in my life for which confession and repentance is needed?
- How can I be changed so I can learn and grow?
- What is in the way of these precepts affecting me? What is in the way of my listening to God?
- How does this apply to me? What will I do about it?
- What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?

Start Thinking. Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- The word translated “favoritism” is only used a handful of times in the New Testament, and it means to be a “respector of persons.” How did this issue of regarding people because of external factors present itself in the early church?
- What is the situation James describes in these verses? Is this a situation from the distant past or something that is very much a part of Christian culture today? Explain.
- What is the root issue of favoritism and prejudice? Though James is describing the worship of the church, how does this extend beyond the context of a worship service? Where else have you observed prejudice and favoritism?
- James said prejudice is wrong because it is inconsistent with God’s character. Read the following verses and take notice of God’s character: Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Colossians 3:25; Deuteronomy 1:17, and 16:19. Who do the Scriptures reveal God to be?

Start Sharing. Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- If you were gut-level honest, what areas of your life do you need to repent of for the sin of favoritism?
- Are there any areas where favoritism has taken root in this group? How can we ensure that this group is a place where all people can feel comfortable and accepted?
- How does showing prejudice and favoritism endanger our witness before a non-believing culture?
- Read Romans 5:8. What darkness and sin has Christ excused in your life? If God was willing to overlook our sin, why are we so unwilling to overlook less significant differences like race, age, income, ethnicity, or any other number of issues?

Start Praying. Ask God to show you any hidden prejudice in your life so that you can repent. Ask the Spirit to help you see people as God does and love others as Jesus did.

Application Point: We can learn to disregard favoritism when we start to love ourselves and others the way Christ loves us.

next moves

Connect To Culture

Remind yourself of all the good and perfect gifts God has given you. Start a blessing journal and list ways God has blessed you. Keep it going and when you face a trial, refer back to your blessings.

Movement News

- **SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT:** God has given so generously to us. In response, let's give generously to God's work through this church movement. Text GIVE and the AMOUNT to **84321** (ex. GIVE 100). *Your tax-deductible gift helps us fulfill our mission, and move the ministry of Movement Church.*
- No matter where you come from, there's a group for you. Join or start an MTG and experience how the gospel can transform your life. A MTG is made up of two or three people, all of the same gender, who meet weekly for personal accountability for their spiritual growth and development. There are only two suggested qualification for starting or joining a MTG:
 1. A desperate need for Jesus (Luke 5:29-32).
 2. Faithfulness in the process itself (2 Tim. 2:2).

To join or start a (MTG), email info@movementchurch.tv

movement transformation groups

Movement Transformation Groups (MTG's) are a simple way to release the most essential elements of a vital spiritual walk to people who need Jesus to change their lives from the inside out. We want to see people experience life change, support one another through the challenges of life, as well as pray and care for one another. (MTG's) empower the common Christian to accomplish the uncommon work of reproducing spiritual disciples who can in turn reproduce others.

Only three tasks are to be accomplished in a (MTG):

- Sin is confessed in mutual accountability.
- Scripture is read repetitively in context and in community.
- Souls are prayed for strategically, specifically, and continuously

Join or start a (MTG), email info@movementchurch.tv

MTG Weekly:

Here are several Biblical reasons why a smaller unit of two or three is better than a larger group when it comes to making and multiplying disciples:

1. **Community** (Eccl. 4:9-12): Life change does not occur in a vacuum; it happens in relationship with others. From the beginning God has said that it is not good to be alone. We need each other for strength and support (Prov. 27:17).
2. **Accountability** (1Tim. 5:19): Few things would get done in life without some degree of accountability. The New Testament lists at least twenty-eight "one another" commands. There's no doubt we need one another to live the life Christ intends for us.
3. **Confidentiality** (Matt. 18:15-17): It is easier to maintain confidentiality in a group of only two or three rather than a larger group of ten or twelve. The Lord specifically designated that two or three is best for the confession of sin.
4. **Flexibility** (Matt. 18:20): It is much easier to coordinate the calendars of only two or three rather than a typical small group of fifteen. A MTG can meet anywhere!
5. **Reproducibility** (2 Tim. 2:2): It is easier to reproduce a smaller, simpler group than a larger and more complex entity. Perhaps that is why The Lord commanded us to make more disciples rather than cells groups or churches (Matt. 28:18-20). Transformed disciples in community are the base unit for the kingdom of God.

Please see the MovementChurch.tv App (discover tab) for MTG overview and gospel conversation question.