

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of 8/25/24

Opener (10 minutes or less)

If you could have any job for a day, what would it be and why?

DISCUSSION (50 minutes or less)

Begin your discussion time in prayer.

Scripture Reading: James 2:1-13

Questions:

- What stands out to you from this passage and/or Sunday's teaching? What was new, challenging, or encouraging?
- 2. How might we be showing favoritism in our lives, whether consciously or unconsciously? What are some subtle ways this can manifest?
- 3. How does the issue of favoritism impact the life and health of a church community? What steps can we take to create a more inclusive environment?
- 4. How can we experience freedom while still being bound by the law? What does it mean to live under the law of liberty?

- 5. James warns against showing partiality because those without mercy will be judged without mercy. How does this understanding impact our interactions with others, our thoughts of others, and what we say?
- 6. How can we apply the principles of James 2:1-13 to bring about personal transformation? What specific steps can we take to live out this passage more fully?

PERSONAL (30 minutes or less)

- 1. Oikos the 8 to 15 people God supernaturally and strategically places in your life. Any oikos moments you would like to share..
- 2. What is going on in your life (note prayer requests and praise reports)
- 3. Pray

James 2:1-13

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. 2 For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, 3 and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," 4 have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.