

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 15 minutes

1. Have you ever felt like you were “different” and treated with less value in a church? How did that make you feel about the church? About God? What did you do?

2. How might you as individuals or as a church give priority to those the world sees as “strategic”? How can we change this to make sure all people of status and ability are welcomed equally?

3. To whom do you need to show mercy this week, rather than prejudice, indifference, or resentment? How can you treat that person with mercy?

ACTIVE FAITH ACTION STEP | WEEK 03

The next time you are at work or in church, make a point of greeting and conversing with those whom you usually don't.

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Thank God for His free grace that is for all people. Ask God for forgiveness for times you and your church have committed this sin of favoritism. Ask God to open your eyes and strengthen your resolve to love all people equally.

Choose Mercy
James 2:1-13

What's wrong with practicing partiality?

1. It Goes Against God's _____. *James 2:1-4*

2. It Goes Against God's _____. *James 2:5-7*

3. It Goes Against God's _____. *James 2:8-13*

It goes against God!

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of January 29, 2017

Getting StartedGroup time - 20 minutes

1. Who were the popular kids in your high school and why? In what ways did they get treated differently than other students?
2. Now, as an adult, who are the people with special privileges? Why are they given priority? How do they benefit?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read James 2:1-4

1. What is the situation James is addressing? What would this look like in a modern context? Is it limited to financial favoritism?

APPLY: Do poor people come to our church? If so, how are they treated? If not, why do you think they don't come?

Read James 2:5-7

2. What reasons does James give against favoritism in these verses? How would you explain God's heart for the poor and weak to an unbeliever? **Also read: Psalm 10:12-14; Matt 9:12; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Read James 2:8-13

3. What makes the law "royal"? Why does James use "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" as its summary? How does this guide us best in regards to partiality? **Also read: Matthew 22:36-40**

4. Why does James move from talking about favoritism to murder and adultery? What happens if someone persists in this sin?

5. In what way does mercy triumph over judgment? In the context of this whole passage, what sort of mercy is James saying we should practice?

Read Philippians 2:3-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Acts 10:34-35

6. How does the gospel challenge and liberate us from an attitude of partiality and discrimination?