

# Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer  
[James@jcpineville.com](mailto:James@jcpineville.com)  
[www.jcpineville.com](http://www.jcpineville.com)



## Session 4 Leader Guide

### Leader Notes:

King Jesus makes demands.

### THE WHAT

Do not withhold or give glory, love, affection, hospitality, friendship, mercy, kindness, or service to people based upon their external appearance.

### THE WHY

You dishonor God and you reveal you don't understand the gospel when you show partiality.

If what God is after is the best, the smartest, most attractive, most talented, and wealthiest, we're not Christians.

You're antigospel when you show partiality. It dishonors God.

Spiritual poverty is humility, meekness, and a deep awareness of your need for God.

The incessant need that we have to be seen as cool and relevant must die.

### THE BETTER WAY

Do the Word.

God is a good Father who has brought us forth by His word, and He expects-in fact, He demands-that we obey Him.

Faith without mercy toward others is not genuine faith.

Genuine faith means there's progress, not perfection.

In your remembrance of God's forgiving grace and mercy, extend it to other.

### Discussion:

1. As King, Jesus has demands. What's your immediate reaction to that statement? What comes to mind when you hear the word King? When you hear the word demands?

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2. Honestly, do you typically think about Jesus as King? In what other ways do you think about Jesus? How does the way you view Jesus affect the way you relate to Him and His words?
3. Matt introduced today's teaching with this statement: In the warning there's an invitation to something better. What does that statement mean? How is this a life-changing perspective on God's authority and His commands in Scripture?
4. How does the image of God as Father help us understand "the perfect law, the law of liberty" we discussed last week in James 1:25?
5. What does the following statement mean?
6. For Christians, it's not about perfection; it's about progress. In what ways is this view of sanctification-the process of growing in holiness and Christlikeness-encouraging?
7. Matt continued that thought with a strong statement about the absence of progress in the Christian life: Where there's no progress, there should be questions. What does that statement mean? How does this logical conclusion, based on the previous view of sanctification, challenge you?
8. Today's video applied this view of sanctification in the Christian life to our natural tendency toward partiality. In other words, our flesh distorts judgment and mercy with self-serving motives. Read James 2:1-13, looking for the what, why, and better way addressed in the video. What's a Christian supposed to do or not do, according to this passage?
9. Without sharing specific details, when have you been hurt by unfair judgment, partiality, or exclusiveness in the church?
10. Why should we obey the command not to judge or show partiality as individuals? As a church community?
11. What's the better way presented in these verses? How does the better way invite us into greater joy and satisfaction?
12. Whom can we, as individuals or as a group, reach out to include?
13. What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion? What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?