

Journey CHURCH

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Leader Guide Session 7

Leader Notes

LENSES FOR READING JAMES 3

1. God is for God.
2. God has designed the world to work a specific way.

You are not uppermost in His affections because if you were, God would be an idolater Himself.

A delight in God that leads to a rejoicing in God frees up the soul in magnificent ways. If God is for God, that means every command in the Bible leads me into joy.

God wants His people to follow Him into life via His commands.

If you walk in true wisdom, you find life, and you're blessed by the Lord. If you walk in false wisdom, you hurt yourself, and you love death.

False wisdom is marked by bitter jealousy and selfish ambition because you are all there is; you are uppermost in your own affections; you are your own god.

FALSE WISDOM

1. Is earthly
2. Is unspiritual
3. Is demonic

True wisdom is from above.

HOW WE GROW IN TRUE WISDOM

1. We must have an ever-growing understanding of the God of the Bible.
2. Walk in community.
3. Learn from godly leaders.

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Discussion

1) True wisdom is built on two key ideas:

- God is for God.
- God has designed the world to work a specific way.

Let's examine these ideas and contrast them with false wisdom.

- "God is for God" means God is radically God-centered. He seeks His own good and glory before He seeks ours. Why is this good for us?
- False wisdom is essentially the opposite of true wisdom.

2) If God pursued our glory first, how would that violate His nature?

3) Why do people want to believe God pursues our glory before His own? Why would that ultimately be harmful for us?

4) Now think about what it means to say God has designed the world to work a specific way.

- Why should the way God designed the world concern us?

5) In what ways is this truth liberating? Give an example of how God's design of the world could affect a practical decision.

6) What's the opposite of this idea, according to worldly wisdom?

7) How is understanding the truths that God is for God and that He has designed the world to work in a certain way necessary for embracing true wisdom?

8) How would you summarize the primary message of worldly wisdom?

9) In the video Matt said: The more your life is about you, the more miserable you're going to be. When and how have you experienced this statement to be true?

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10) The wisdom of the world is rooted in selfishness. While our culture disciples us to believe that our determination, our truth, and our happiness are the most important priorities in life, these ideas run contrary to God's Word. All people were meant to find their ultimate purpose and delight in God. True wisdom means we embrace God's vision of how the world works.

Read James 3:13-18.

- What are the characteristics of false wisdom? Which of these traits do you most struggle with?
- What are the characteristics of true wisdom? Which have you seen the Spirit of God producing in your life?

11) What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion?

12) What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?

Close in prayer.

PRAYER REQUESTS