



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of April 21, 2024

1. Open your Bibles to James 2:1-13. Have each person in the group read a verse until all the verses are read. How would you summarize this section in your own words? What is the main subject James is talking about?
2. As you look back over your life, have you ever been treated unfairly, or been on the wrong end of favoritism, nepotism, or prejudice? What happened? Why do you think the other person was treated better than you?
3. How did Jesus treat people who were rich and influential? Did He fawn over them or cater to them? How did He treat those who were downtrodden and poor? Did He look down on them? What example did Jesus model for us when it comes to relating to different kinds of people? (see Matthew 22:36-40)
4. Is it mostly rich, prestigious, influential people who are most impacted by the gospel? Are they the ones that churches should give time and attention to reaching? What did James say about this in James 2:5? Be sure to look at 1 Corinthians 1:26-28 as part of your answer.
5. What is the “royal law” of James 1:8? Why do you think this law is so close to God’s heart? Is God guilty of showing favoritism in His judgments or dealings with mankind? (see Acts 10:34 and Romans 2:11)
6. If we say that “*The ground is all level at the cross*”, what do we mean by that? (John 3:16) Should we be careful or cautious about what groups, nationalities, or races of people we share Jesus with? (Matthew 28:19-20)
7. If we have been impacted and transformed by the truth of Jesus Christ and His gospel, what commands are we charged with obeying in verse 12?

“_____ and _____ as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom...”
James 2:12 NIV

8. What are some ways that sinful favoritism and “special treatment” show up in some churches? Can you think of some examples? What practical steps can we take to make sure our church is welcoming to all people regardless of economics, education, or ethnicity? What can you do INDIVIDUALLY? What can we do CORPORATELY? What would you do if you saw sinful favoritism happening in your church?

Favoritism is forbidden in the church because Jesus is an equal-opportunity Savior.