

James
Women's Bible Study Revised 2022-23

Lesson 11: James 3:13-18
Wisdom from Above

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

1) Remember the tests with which the Lord tests our faith: temptation, response to the Word of God, how a person responds to needy people, and the use of our tongue. This next test is of wisdom. Remind yourself of how we have defined wisdom previously (see Lesson 3).

Wisdom:

2) Where do we find wisdom? Why should we seek wisdom?

James 3:13-18 speaks of two different kinds of wisdom, spiritual and earthly. Describe the two different types of wisdom. How would you explain these two types of wisdom to a young believer?

Spiritual wisdom:

Earthly wisdom:

3) James has shown us previously that true faith is bound up in behavior – our conduct. Wisdom is no different. You exhibit that you possess spiritual wisdom in your behavior. However, there is another way that our faith and/or spiritual wisdom is exhibited – what way is that?

4) Let's look at Ecclesiastes. Here Solomon, the wisest man ever, decides to pursue the wisdom of man through his experiences. Read Ecclesiastes 1:16-2:23. What do we learn through this comparison?

5) From Solomon's pursuit of wisdom, draws a conclusion about Godly wisdom. Read Ecclesiastes 8:16-17. Explain what his conclusion is.

6) Remember, Solomon was one of God's people. The newly converted Christians (from Judaism) to whom James is writing, and Christians today are believers. But many find themselves in this despair that comes from the futility of pursuing earthly wisdom. How do we minister to these desperate souls? What verses do you give them to point them towards Godly wisdom?