

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON JAMES 2:1-13

OPEN IT

Feel free to choose just one of these questions.

- How much money would it take to make you consider yourself rich?
- What reasons might a person think he/she is more important than another? Where do you see prejudice being practiced?
- When people visit your church, how do you make them feel welcome?

EXPLORE IT

Feel free to choose just selected questions from this section.

- 2:1-13. What is the main point in these verses? What practical example did James use to illustrate it?
- 2:5-7. What has God promised to the poor? What does the church do to the poor when it shows favoritism toward the rich? What do rich people have a history of doing to people in the church?
- 2:8-11. What is the royal law found in Scripture? What does practicing favoritism do to a person who is trying to keep the law? Why does breaking one of God's laws make us guilty of breaking the whole? (Consider what we are saying about God when we break a law.)
- 2:12-13. By what standards should a person speak and act? What promise is made to people who judge without mercy? Why should we be merciful? Why is it important that "mercy triumphs over judgment?"

GET IT

Feel free to invest time here by discussing selected questions.

- In what ways have you been a victim of favoritism or prejudice? How have you shown favoritism or prejudice toward others?
- How do we use financial status, physical appearance, job status, and athletic ability to show favoritism toward people?
- How can we welcome poor people in our church? Why does God have a special concern for poor people? In what ways can we show genuine love to people of different races, cultures, and economic standing?
- Why is favoritism or prejudice overlooked as sin? Why would God condemn us as lawbreakers if our sins are "minor" ones, like prejudice?

APPLY IT

These are questions for you to take home and meditate on personally.

- What one truth from James 2:1-13 impresses you as something you need to apply? What can you do to take this truth to heart and practice it?
- From whom can you ask forgiveness for showing prejudice? How can you change the way you look at wealth so that you value it as God does?
- Next time you are at work or in church, greet those you usually don't.