

JAMES

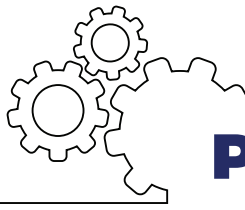
WORD TO THE WISE

Message Study Guide



PRAY READ EXPLORE: James 2:1-13

Message Notes:



PRAYREADEXPLORE



Pray, then read and explore the passage. Any notable observations or questions?



What practical action is James calling to the readers' attention in this section ([James 2:1-7, 9](#))?

Why does it matter if the church makes distinctions among themselves, favoring one group over another in terms of wealth and status?

God has a history of advocating and choosing the poor and unexpected. What stories and people come to mind?

What does it mean to be rich in faith and what does that look like in someone's life? ([Matthew 5:3](#))

In what ways have you seen partiality present in your life, relationships, organizations, or church?

What are some ways we can ensure we are not making any unnecessary distinctions?



Why does James remind the readers in [2:8-11](#) about the law? What law should we speak and act according to?



James uses the unique (used only here) term "royal law" in [2:8](#). What is that law, and why do you think he refers to it as he does? How is favoritism the antithesis of the royal law? Read [Leviticus 19:18](#); [Matthew 22:34-40](#); [Romans 13:8-10](#); [Galatians 5:13-15](#).

As believers, how does our understanding of the gospel change the way we view and love others?

How does [James 2:1-13](#), shape the Mission of First Free Church as we strive to be a "diverse and authentic gospel-centered community of people in process, seeking to know and love God more deeply and display His love to our neighbors practically"?

- How does diversity and authenticity keep us from partiality and favoritism?
- How does viewing people in process and loving our neighbors work against our propensity to judge people and put them in various seats of honor or shame?
- Read [James 2:13](#), what does it mean to be merciful in our ministry to others? ([See Micah 6:8](#); [Zechariah 7:9-10](#), [Matthew 5:7](#); [6:15](#); [18:32-35](#))