



TODAY'S MAIN POINT

Real faith doesn't play favorites.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE(S)

James 2:1-13

TEACHING GOAL

Students will understand that following Jesus reshapes how they assign value to people, especially in environments shaped by popularity, reputation, influence, and social status.

LEADER NOTE:

Today's conversation is about how Jesus reshapes the way we assign value to people in a world that constantly ranks them by popularity, influence, and reputation. James challenges us to notice where favoritism quietly shapes our relationships and invites us to begin seeing others the way God sees them. As you discuss, aim for honesty—not perfect answers—and consider where Jesus might be inviting you to move toward someone this week.

Let's Break the Ice:

- When you walk into a new room for the first time, what could you see that would immediately make you feel comfortable or welcomed?
- What kinds of things make someone seem "valuable" in the eyes of others?

Bible Study:

- Read Together or ask someone to summarize the story: As a group, read James 2:1-13 NIV (*Telos Bible Pg. 1213*)

Discussion Questions:

- In James 2, how does the example of the rich person and the poor person expose the way people naturally think? Do you see this issue in our church? If not, are there other ways people may show favoritism here?
- What does this passage teach us about how followers of Jesus are supposed to assign value to people?
- When are you most tempted to give more attention or respect to someone because of what they can do for your image or reputation?
- What would it look like to start seeing people the way Jesus sees them instead of how culture values them?

Make it Real:

- Is there anyone you tend to ignore, avoid, or treat differently because being associated with them might affect how others see you? How do you think God wants you to respond to James' message? (*Leader note: Be prepared to meet your students with the truth of the Gospel here. Slow down and lean in*)

Discipleship Moment:

This week, intentionally move toward someone outside your normal circle—especially someone overlooked, different, or inconvenient—and treat them with the kind of value Jesus has given you.

Partner Check-In: Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner at some point during the week or during your next gathering.

Prayer:

- Close with group prayer
 - Take prayer requests
 - Celebrate what God has done over the last week