



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 we're talking about favoritism and how following Jesus changes the way we treat people—especially those who are often overlooked or left out. James reminds us that everyone matters to God because everyone is made in His image. As we talk together, be honest about what it feels like to be included or excluded and look for one simple way you can treat someone differently this week.

Let's Break the Ice:

- Have you ever been nervous walking into a room and not knowing where you fit in?
- What makes someone feel welcomed right away?

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 2:1, what does James say followers of Jesus should not do?
- According to this passage, why is favoritism such a big deal?
- What are some reasons people get treated differently in certain spaces (think about school, gym class, youth group, etc)
- Why do you think Jesus cares so much about the people that others overlook?
- What would it look like to treat someone like they really matter? (Think beyond just being nice. How can our actions point them to the Gospel?)

Make it Real:

- Have you ever felt overlooked, left out, or like someone else mattered more than you? What was that like? (*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