



TODAY'S MAIN POINT

Wisdom from above leads to peace, not pride.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE(S)

James 3:13-18

TEACHING GOAL

Students will recognize that their words—especially in conversations, group chats, and reputation environments—reveal what is shaping their hearts, and that Jesus transforms both what we say and why we say it.

This week, students are exploring the difference between earthly wisdom—which pushes us to prove ourselves—and wisdom from above—which forms us into people who bring peace into relationships. James challenges students to notice how often the pressure to be impressive, respected, or right shapes their responses to others. Encourage honest reflection about what kind of wisdom is currently shaping their decisions.

Let's Break the Ice:

- In your mind, what's the difference between a wise person and a smart person?
- Do you have a hard time keeping the peace when you know you're right in an argument? Why or why not?

Bible Study:

- Read Together or ask someone to summarize the story: As a group, read James 3:13-18 NIV (*Telos Bible Pg. 1214*)

Discussion Questions:

- According to James, what are the signs that someone is living in earthly wisdom?
- Which description of wisdom from James 3:17 stands out most to you? Why?
- Where do you feel the most pressure to prove yourself, win an argument, or protect your reputation?
- Which part of wisdom from above (peace, humility, mercy, sincerity, kindness) is hardest to live out right now?
- What would it look like for someone at school to experience Jesus through the way you handle conflict this week?

Make it Real:

- When conflict happens in your life, are you usually trying to understand the other person or are you trying to be right? Which do you think Jesus is most concerned with? (*Leader note: Be prepared to meet your students with the truth of the Gospel here. Slow down and lean in*)

Discipleship Moment:

Choose one situation this week where you would normally defend yourself or try to win—and instead respond with humility, patience, or peace.

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