

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Pride & Prejudice

January 18 & 19, 2020

The sin that James addresses is favoritism, partiality. The real issue, I think, is that a Church that practices favoritism has not understood the heart of the Gospel. We are all undeserving of mercy. We were all once under God's righteous judgment. But God did not turn away from us. God embraced us on the cross and declared us righteous and loved.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JAMES 2:1-13

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The example that James gives is when the Church gives preferential treatment to the rich over the poor. And James says several powerful things about this sin:

- ◇ Favoritism is a value system of the kingdom of this world, not the Kingdom of God. Instead we should be motivated by the things that reflect God's heart and honor God's values.
- ◇ If anything, the Church should value the poor because God show preferential treatment to the poor. Jesus came announcing Good News to the poor. God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith. The poor are the ones who recognize their need for God.
- ◇ The rich often oppressed the poor and used a corrupt justice system to get what they wanted. When the Church gives preferential treatment to the rich, they are turning a blind eye to sin.
- ◇ And if you thought that favoritism is just a "little sin" James reminds us that there is no such thing. Breaking God's law breaks Gods' heart. Period.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some examples of favoritism?
- When have you see favoritism active in the church?
- In what ways do we practice favoritism in daily life?
- How might the church, and how might we, act differently if we fully embraced James' message?

APPLICATION: This week, pay attention to the ways you might show favoritism. Consider how you can show mercy and love in those moments instead of pride and prejudice. Ask God to help you.