

# BLUEPRINT

FOR A FAITH THAT WORKS

Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church  
James 3.13-18 | July 28, 2019

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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week James will have us engage with wisdom - Godly wisdom and human wisdom. James begins his letter by instructing us that we can find wisdom through prayer. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God..." (James 1:5). In chapter 3:17, James reminds us that Godly wisdom "comes from heaven..." And this wisdom from above impacts our journey of life and faith, as we seek a faith that works to bring glory to God and be a blessing to others.

## II. Connecting with One Another

Think about who you would nominate to receive "the wisest person I know award"? Why? Share your initial thoughts about the blessings of Godly wisdom at work in the world and how human wisdom alone will eventually "miss the mark" that God intends for His followers to strive for with the Holy Spirit's help.

## III. Study the Text

- a. What insight does James 3:13 provide for us to recognize a wise person? Where in your life will you benefit from receiving more Godly wisdom?
- b. Verses 14-16 highlight two behaviors that indicate a lack of wisdom...what are some "current event" examples that come to mind? Where in your life do you need to let go of earthly wisdom?
- c. Verse 17 - what does Godly wisdom produce? (See Galatians 5:22-26)
- d. Verse 18 recalls Jesus' Beatitude: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:19). Who are the peacemakers you have known or have witnessed in your life's journey?
- e. How can you tell when God's wisdom is at work in your life and in the world?

## IV. Pray

- a. Ask for the Holy Spirit to graciously guide you as a child of God, in all your words and actions, with the wisdom that comes from above...
- b. Confess any areas of your life in which you have been living by false wisdom with self-centered purposes. Thank God for the forgiveness and new life made possible by surrendering your will to Christ as Lord. Ask for a heart and a mind focused on God's goodness and trustworthiness.
- c. Pray for the ministry of Good Shepherd, that Godly wisdom would guide and direct our hearts and minds as we seek to invite all people to grow into a Christ-centered life in God's family.



## V. Digging Deeper

- a. Jesus encouraged people to come learn from Him because He was "gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Paul asserted his authority as an apostle and teacher after invoking "the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:1). Why do you think humility or meekness is such an essential sign of wisdom?
- b. Share your thoughts on why it is "not enough" simply to have knowledge. Would you agree that wisdom helps us to be able to properly use the knowledge we have been given about a subject/situation/person?
- c. Read Genesis 11:1-9 (Tower of Babel) - earthly wisdom falls short of God's plan...discuss.
- d. Read through Proverbs 8 & 9 - what jumps out as to the rich blessings of Godly wisdom? How do you feel about this wisdom being available to and for followers of Jesus?
- e. Reach out to a person this week that has demonstrated putting Godly wisdom into practice in word and deed...encourage them by sharing your appreciation for their faith/life example.

