

STUDY NOTES

JAMES: A FAITH THAT ENDURES

A series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Natural Jealousy and SuperNatural Righteousness" on 3/10/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JAMES 3:13-18

WISDOM AND BITTER JEALOUSY

Jame returns to the wisdom theme with which he started his letter. He reminds us that wisdom concerns the conduct of one's life.

If you are truly wise, it will be shown through your humble and gentle actions.

In contrast to wisdom, we let rivalry, bitter jealousy, and selfish ambition sneak into our hearts. All of those cause us to be blind to the truth of reality, or the truth about other people. We become focused on what other people have, and then become bitter at them because we don't have it.

- *What is your experience with fun, "light-hearted" rivalries? How do they make you blind to the truth?*

JEALOUSY LEADS TO SELFISH AMBITION

Jealousy and bitterness leads us to only seek what is best for ourselves. They lead to selfish ambition. (Ambition itself is a good thing, but selfish ambition is damaging to everyone involved.) James goes as far as to say that selfish ambition is unspiritual and demonic. When you are caught up in jealousy or selfish ambition, you are right

where the enemy wants you. If everyone only thinks for his or her self, then all chaos breaks loose.

If you plant jealousy and selfish ambition, you harvest disorder and evil practices.

- *What is your experience with being jealous of someone else? How does that feeling lead you to treat that person?*
- *Why do you think Satan likes to use jealousy and selfish ambition as a tool to divide people?*

WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING?

If planting jealousy in your heart leads to harvesting disorder and evil, then what do you need to plant to harvest righteousness? James tells us that planting peace will lead us to harvest peace. Planting peace is an activity, not an idea. The good news is that we don't have to start the process. Jesus already made peace when he took on every evil practice of ours in order to give us His righteousness.

Peace is a supernatural gift made possible through a supernatural act.

- *How have you seen people treat planting peace like an idea, not an activity?*
- *How have you treated planting peace like an idea, not an activity?*
- *How does recognizing what Jesus did for you plant peace in your heart?*
- *Where are you being convicted to plant peace in your own life?*
- *Pray with each other to live in peace.*