

## DISCUSS

- Consider beginning your discussion by sharing your best/worst subjects in school.
- What is the best advice you have ever received. How was it helpful?
- In James 3:16-17 we see descriptions of true wisdom and false wisdom. What's the difference?
- If you were posting this passage what title would you give it?
- Why do you think James wrote this? What problem was occurring that he was trying to correct?
- In your own words, what do these verses teach us about what wisdom is and isn't?
- Learn more about wisdom in the following Bible passages: Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 9:10-12; Ecclesiastes 1:17-18.

## APPLY

- James talks about God's wisdom being "pure." For what area of life do you feel you need this reminder most?
- Do something to honour a person whose wisdom you have been blessed by. If the person is living, message them to thank them. What name(s) comes to mind?
- What small thing could you do to promote peace that yields "a harvest of righteousness" this week?

## GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- James 1:5 invites us to ask God for wisdom. Make 'wisdom from above' a request together.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for help in discerning worldly wisdom from a godly approach to life.
- Pray for the elders and pastors of Wellspring, that they would have God's wisdom for our church.

# Making FAITH + WORK

Book of James

# 7

Week 7: Wisdom from Above

Key Text: James 3:13-18

## OPEN

There is a great deal of difference between having knowledge and wisdom. Both are good, but wisdom is knowing how to best apply the knowledge you have. Scripture states that, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom"(Prov. 9:10). In our passage this week, James talks about there being two kinds of wisdom – a wisdom that is earthly in contrast to a wisdom that is from above, from God. Like many other aspects of our faith, James says the kind of wisdom you live by shows itself in how you live. James makes the point that to truly understand God's Word is to put it into practice – to live out what God says. To help us see the difference and not be confused, James gives examples of both to help us choose.

## REFLECT

- Often we associate wisdom with being knowledgeable, but what does James say in v. 13 reveals someone as wise?
- Wisdom – how someone goes about life – that is not from heaven, James says, is not just earthly but actually has a spiritual root to it. What is that root?
- In v. 16, how does earthly wisdom manifest itself? How does James characterize it? List what James says.
- In contrast, what traits does James identify as being from above? How do they relate to the fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5?