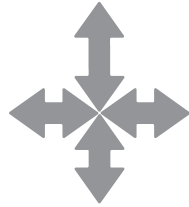




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of November 18th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



UP: growing in relationship with God

IN: growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

OUT: growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission

Get Started:

How do you typically handle conflict with friends/family/co-workers? (Rise up to challenge them? Shut down? Try to make peace?) Why do you think this is?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: James 3:13–18. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. When you consider our cultural dialogue regarding elections, religion, child-rearing, sexuality, politics, etc., what sorts of conversations do you see people having? What are the typical "rules of engagement" in these discussions?
2. Re-read verse 1. James connects wisdom with deeds done in "humility" or "gentleness" (ραῦτητι in Greek). Consider the wisest people in your life. Would humility and gentleness accurately describe them? What other qualities come to mind when you think of these people?
3. Describe a time you truly listened to someone you strongly disagreed with. What was this experience like? How did gentleness play a part in your interaction?
4. Our culture celebrates the pluralistic idea that there is no ultimate truth, that everyone's opinion is equally valid, that there are only preferences and varying perspectives. How can we have meaningful dialogue with people when we cannot appeal to a common source of "truth?"

5. The church has historically made significant truth claims that are a challenge to the pluralistic world we live in. How do we maintain the truth of the Gospel in a world that rejects the concept of objective truth?
6. What steps could you take this week to better practice gentleness in disagreements in the boardroom, classroom, breakroom, on social media, with family, etc.?



Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

By engaging in disagreements gently, we have the opportunity to represent Christ to a world that does not see much gentleness. Spend a moment brainstorming the spaces in your lives that are the most in need of gentleness.



IN: Connect with Each Other

As you go around your circle, identify one person in your life whom you find especially difficult to engage in conversation or healthy dialogue with. As you close your group, pray for that person and your relationship with them.