

“Wisdom from Above”
(James 3:13–18)

Read James 3:13–18

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday’s sermon, and why? Was there something that particularly challenged or convicted you about the way you relate to others?

2. In the sermon, we learned that wisdom is more than simply knowing what is right. What is the difference between knowing God’s Word and actually living wisely? Why is it possible for someone to know a great deal about the Bible and still act foolishly?

3. We looked at five ways that God gives us wisdom: fearing God, knowing Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, studying God’s Word, and prayer (James 1:5). Which of these do you think you most need to grow in?

4. Read James 3:13. James says that a truly wise person will demonstrate wisdom through good behavior and gentleness. Why do you think gentleness is such an important evidence of godly wisdom? How can someone be both strong and gentle at the same time?

5. Read James 3:17. James lists seven characteristics of wisdom from above. Which of these qualities do you find most encouraging? Which one do you personally struggle the most to display?

6. James says that godly wisdom is first pure, then peaceable. Why is it important that purity comes before peace? How can we stand firmly for what is right without becoming argumentative or unnecessarily causing conflict?

7. James also says that godly wisdom is reasonable—in other words, being teachable and willing to listen to others. Why is it difficult to admit that we're wrong? How might having a more teachable spirit improve our relationships?

8. Godly wisdom is also full of mercy and good fruits. What does it mean to show mercy to someone who is suffering because of their own poor decisions? How can we also show this kind of mercy to our spouse, children, friends, or fellow believers?

9. Read James 3:14–16. James warns against bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, and arrogance. How do these sinful attitudes lead to conflict? What are some warning signs that these attitudes might be creeping into our hearts?

10. In the sermon, we learned that worldly wisdom is earthly, natural, and demonic. How does the world's way of dealing with disagreements and personal conflicts differ from the wisdom God teaches us in His Word?

11. As you consider the contrast between worldly wisdom and wisdom from above, which one is more evident in your daily relationships? Is there a particular attitude or behavior that you need to repent of and change? What would it look like to begin practically putting God’s wisdom into practice this week?
