

WISDOM FROM ABOVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 3:13-18

- 1 **How does the world define wisdom?** How does that differ from the Bible's definition?

💡 What is the difference between knowing facts and possessing godly wisdom?

💡 In what ways have you seen Biblical wisdom exemplified in another person?

- 2 **When we think about speech, we need to realize that both our mouths and our hearts talk.**

❤️ Interact with the following quote: "The tongue is so much more than what we actually say out loud. In fact, actual speech is probably only a small percentage of the use of the tongue. We cannot think without formulating thoughts in words; we cannot plan without describing to ourselves step by step what we intend to do; we cannot imagine without painting a word-picture before our inward eyes; we cannot write a letter or a book without 'talking it through' our minds onto the paper; we cannot resent without fueling the fires of resentment in words addressed to ourselves; we cannot feel sorry for ourselves without listening to the self-pitying voice which tells us how hard done by we are." - J.A. MOTYER

❤️ Take a moment to think through both the silent dialogue of your heart and the audible dialogue of your words over the last 24 hours. In what ways did you display wisdom from below and wisdom from above?

- 3 Let's consider the description of wisdom from above in James 3:17, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere." Fill in the blank with the word that matches the definition from a Bible concordance:

✍ _____: (originally, in a condition prepared for worship), pure (either ethically, or ritually, ceremonially), chaste

✍ _____: properly, not a phony ("put on"), describing sincere behavior free from hidden agendas (selfish motives) – literally, "without hypocrisy" (unfeigned).

✍ _____: what pertains to peace, i.e. God's gift of wholeness which results from knowing (discerning) the Lord's will and obeying it

✍ _____: seemly, equitable, yielding

 -----: without uncertainty, unambiguous, undivided, whole-hearted

 -----: filled with pity, compassion

 -----: filled with excellent results, gain

 -----: compliant, ready to obey

4 **On getting wisdom:** Considering the above definitions, what type of people should you avoid getting advice or counsel from? Think through your past - when have you gotten "wisdom" from the wrong people? What were some of the bad things you reaped when you heeded bad counsel?

5 **On receiving wisdom:** Considering the above definitions, what are behaviors people display that show they are not truly receiving wisdom from above? Have you ever been confused by your own feelings toward Biblical counsel? What made it hard? Why is it difficult for some people to receive wisdom when it is in the form of confrontation?

6 **On giving wisdom:** Considering the above definitions, what are things about God and His Word and about yourself that you should think through before giving advice? What are ways to ensure you are giving wisdom from above?

PRAYER REQUESTS

7 **Read 1 Cor. 1:30, Col. 2:2-3.** In what ways did Jesus embody wisdom from above in His life and ministry? Include scripture references, if possible.

 Compare your inconsistency in wisdom with Jesus' perfect consistency in it. How does this cause your heart to grow in worship for the way Jesus lived, loved, and ministered?

8 **All the good traits James discusses here come from "clothing" ourselves in heavenly wisdom and putting off worldly wisdom.** Think about what you can do this week to wear heavenly wisdom (3:17-18). What traits or habits do you need to confess and repent of? What else do you need to pursue to grow in heavenly wisdom? Be as specific about your plans as possible.
