WISDOM FROM BELOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 3:13-18

1	James says that wisdom from below leads to "disorder and every vile practice." What mental pictures come to mind when you hear that phrase?		
	What situations in the church might James have in mind?		
	What situations in the church might you have in mind?		
2	Case Study: Acts 15:1-35, the episode known as The Jerusalem Council. James is no stranger to controversy within the Body of Christ. In Acts, he is a part of 2 situations that required wisdom to navigate through. Look through one of these case studies and take note of how James demonstrates Wisdom from Above in contrast to "Wisdom from Below."		
	What was the issue driving the church toward division?		
	How was "wisdom from below" being shown?		
	How was the conflict resolved?		
	What did James appeal to in order to resolve the conflict?		
	Whow was the Gospel magnified in this issue within the church?		
3	Oftentimes ministry can actually magnify the characteristics of "bitter jealousy (envy)" and "selfish ambition" (rivalry). When we work alongside others, it doesn't take long for our true selves to come to the surface.		
	Bitter Jealousy: What does this look like in your life? Where have you shown this kind of envy, either at home, at work (or school), or especially within the context of church life?		
	Selfish Ambition: What does selfish ambition cause you to think of? Where might this kind of rivalry show up in life?		

	Read through this quote and take α 2nd look at the 2 bullets above: "Christian service often gives us opportunities of leadership and position that we could not attain in the secular world, and we [can] quickly fall into pride, self-seeking, and ambition. With those things hidden in our heart, we have only to work alongside others, and we find resentment, hardness, criticism, jealousy, and frustration issuing from our hearts. We think we are working for God, but the test of how little of our service is for Him is revealed by our resentment or self-pity, when the actions of others, or circumstances, or ill-health take it from us!" From We Would See Jesus, by Roy and Revel Hession		
4	Read through the characteristics of Wisdom from Below found in v. 15.		
	Discuss how these characteristics are combatted through the finished work of Christ on our behalf.		
	Earthly: Read and discuss 1 John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:5-10		
	Unspiritual: Read and discuss Romans 8:9-11	PRAYER REQUESTS	
	Demonic: Read and discuss 1 John 3:7-8		
5	Application: How does envy and rivalry show itself most obviously in your life?		
	♥ How does Gospel Truth confront this area of your life?		
	Are there people in your life who you have treated with envy and/or rivalry? What course of action should you take to be reconciled to them?		
6	Prayer: James 5:16 says, "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." This kind of passage ought to be fuel for confession among fellow believers. Take time to pray for one another as you confess how you personally manifest Wisdom from Below.		