



LEADER LESSON

JAMES 2:1-4, 8-9



LEADER TEACHER TIP:

Use the whiteboard! Have students write out the lesson's key verses! Ask for students to volunteer to do the following:

- Circle contrasting words and synonyms and underline any action words
- Put a square around any words that tell you something about God (His character, His promises, etc)

INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

PRAY

Open your time in prayer.

CHECKPOINT

Last small group lesson, you committed to taking one step to read the Bible more often and carefully. Can you share how that went? Did you find it helpful for understanding the Bible better?
Bible better?
Why or why not?

ENGAGE

To view the engage video, please see the instructions stored on the back of the TV in your room.

READ JAMES 2:1-4,8-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES):

1. What does it mean to show favoritism?
 - *Answer: Favoritism is when someone unfairly prefers one person or group over others, often based on things like what they wear, their social status, or how they look.*
2. Who seems to receive favoritism in your school, and who tends to be overlooked? How can you challenge yourself not to play favorites?
3. Why do you think the Christians were tempted to show favoritism towards the rich man?
 - *Answer: It might be because they thought being friends with him could bring them benefits due to his wealth and social standing.*
4. What is royal law (vs. 8)?
 - *Answer: The command to love your neighbor as yourself.*
5. What does James mean when he tells Christ followers to "love your neighbor as yourself" in his teachings about favoritism (James 2:8)?
 - *Answer: James is asking us not to treat people differently because of their status or appearance. Instead, he wants us to see everyone as our neighbor, deserving equal respect and love, without discrimination.*
6. What excites and challenges you about following Jesus' command to love every neighbor equally?
7. Think about your last group project or team activity. Did you, even unintentionally, show favoritism by choosing classmates based on their popularity or abilities?

CHECKPOINT CHALLENGE... how to apply this (10 MINUTES):

- What can you do this week to start noticing those around you who are overlooked?
- Pray and ask God to reveal someone who is not like you to reach out to this week. Then don't be a hearer but do it!

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA (10 MINUTES):

Go around the circle & everyone shares a praise & a prayer request...the person on your right will pray over your prayer request.

DIVE DEEPER

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO DIVE DEEPER AFTER TONIGHT

CROSS REFERENCES

Favoritism:

Ephesians 6:9
Colossians 3:11
Deuteronomy 10:17-18
Leviticus 19:16-26

Who is our neighbor?

Luke 20:29-37

Example of Christian Community

Acts 6

PODCAST/SPOTIFY/YT ON JAMES 2:1-18

 [The Listeners Commentary James 2:1-18](#)

 [Tim Keller: A Community of Justice James 2:1-18 \(Part 1\)](#)

 Podcasts on life during the early church: Slow Theology: [Strange Religion \(starting at minute 11\)](#)

 Bible Project Video: Justice --->

