

GROWTH GUIDE

READ & REVIEW

Today's focus is going to be on looking at the biblical text and understanding what the writer was communicating to his original audience.

Begin by reading James 3:13-18 in its entirety.

Read James 3:13

James invites those who think they are wise to prove it with conduct and works done in gentleness.

How do you think this charge from James connects to last week's passage on speech? Do you connect the ideas of gentleness and wisdom? Why or why not?

Read James 3:14-16

James paints a portrait of false wisdom. Bitter envy and selfish ambition are markers of a wisdom James calls earthly, unspiritual, and demonic (vv. 14-15). He says this envy and ambition are the fruits of evil and disorder (v. 16).

Are these characteristics (bitter envy and selfish ambition) how you discern true wisdom from false wisdom? Do you look at the fruit of someone's life or way of thinking as a way of discerning true wisdom from false wisdom?

Read James 3:17

James paints a portrait of wisdom from above.

Which of the characteristics listed of wisdom from above do you find most surprising? Why?

Read James 3:18

James says the fruit of true wisdom is righteousness and peace.

How are the relationships someone has evidence true wisdom?