

# faith, hope, love

James 3:13-18  
Inductive Discovery Lesson 5

**Walking Your Faith** In John Bunyun's classic *Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian falls in step with a man walking just ahead of him on the path. His name is Worldly-Wise and he advises Christian to take an easier route than the one given in the King's Book. When Christian hesitates, Worldly-Wise convinces the young pilgrim he is too simple to appreciate help from one with much more experience. "Be smart," Worldly-Wise says. "Follow my lead and you can't go wrong." So Christian goes along but soon his companion disappears. Christian is left, alone and afraid, in dangerous territory. Sorry for being so foolish, he sits down and cries for help. So the King sends one of his servants, a wise and tender man named Evangelist, to find Christian and guide him back to the right path.

"Who among you is wise and understanding?" James asks. It would be wise to *think* before answering such a question, wouldn't it? That's what James compels his readers to do. With these verses, James asks us to sit down and take a "true or false" examination of our own heart. True wisdom, James says, comes from above and has the marks of godliness all over it. False wisdom comes from below. Whatever does not come from God is destined to fail, no matter how much easier or successful it may seem at the time.

**Working Text for James 3:13-18** *(For this lesson, the working text is provided in two translations.)*

**New King James Version (NKJ)**

**13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. **14** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. **15** This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. **16** For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. **17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. **18** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

**13** If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. **15** For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. **16** For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. **17** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. **18** And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

## OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

**Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources** such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow James' train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

## James 3:13-18

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

## Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

**“wise and understanding”** (vs.13) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“peaceable”** (vs. 17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“gentle”** (vs.17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“willing to yield”** (vs. 17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“full of mercy and good fruits”** (vs.17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**“without partiality....hypocrisy”** (vs.17) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **INTERPRET**

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

## **APPLY**

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

### **James 3 :13-18**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_?

**Please share a second lesson you learned from these verses.**

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_?

## **Summary**

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the section is about. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the section to help you remember what it says.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Up close and personal

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable,  
gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits,  
without partiality and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17 NKJ



### Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

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### Meditate on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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### **Make God's Word Your Prayer**

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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### **Something to Think About . . .**

True wisdom comes from above and has the marks of godliness on it.  
The real test of godly wisdom lies in a person's conduct.

