

THE BOOK OF
JAMES
 MAKING FAITH WORK

THE POWER OF
 TOGETHER
 James 2.1-13

Key Points :

- James 2 says we must not show favouritism, but, instead, love our neighbour as ourselves. The enemy wants to divide the Church, and we need to be intentional and diligent to preserve our unity. We have to fight together against division. Our Heavenly Father has no favourites. (Romans 2.11)
- We must change the way we see, and look at others from the inside out. We are all made by the same Father, in His image. We need to see that we are one in Him!
- We must change the way we speak, and speak words of honour and life to others. We cannot allow favouritism to determine what we say to and about other people.
- We must change the way we feel about others. We need to grow in love for all people, and extend mercy to those who need it. Remember: "Mercy triumphs over judgement." (v.13)

Questions:

Conversation Starter

1. What's your favourite 'favourite' (it could be a sports team, book, TV programme etc.)?

Start Thinking & Sharing

2. What are some ways you have shown favouritism or experienced the negative effects of favouritism in your life? Why is it important to look at others from the inside out?
3. Talk about what kind of language divides us and what kind unites us. How can you use your words to promote unity in your home, church, and community?
4. What does it mean to show love without judgment? Talk about some practical ways we can love our neighbours as ourselves.

Start praying. Be bold, and pray specifically.

5. *Father, thank You for making us one in You. Give us Your perspective and Your heart for others so we can be quick to extend love and mercy in every situation. Help us to never favour one person over another, but to love our neighbours as ourselves. Give us awareness and strength to resist the attacks of the enemy that would divide us, and empower us to fight for unity together, in Jesus' Name. Amen*

Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.

6. Either by yourself or with one or two others (a prayer triplet maybe?!) think and share some of the areas where you might have experienced rejection, or where you've found yourself showing favouritism. Pray together asking God to heal what needs to be healed, to forgive anything that needs to be forgiven, and to lift the lens of favouritism from your life.