

**Opening Question:** Share a time when you felt included or excluded based on how you looked, what you had, or who you knew? How did that experience affect you?

**For Discussion:**

1. Understanding the Text

- What example does James give to show how favoritism can appear in a church setting?
- According to verses 5–7, why is favoritism especially problematic in God's kingdom?

2. Personal Reflection

- In what subtle ways might favoritism show up in our own church or relationships?
- Are there people you naturally gravitate toward—or avoid—based on what they can do for you?

3. Digging Deeper

- James isn't forbidding close friendships or relationships. What's the difference between favoritism and healthy friendship?
- How does Jesus model inclusion and compassion in His relationships? How did He treat the "unseen" or "unimportant"?

4. Application

- What would it look like for our church to reflect God's heart for both the rich and the poor?
- How can we practice "loving our neighbor as ourselves" with intentionality this week?

**Reflection Challenge:**

This week, take a practical step to include someone who may often go unnoticed—whether it's at church, work, school, or in your neighborhood. Ask yourself, "Am I seeing this person as God sees them?"

**Prayer Points:**

- \* Ask God to reveal any favoritism in your heart.
- \* Pray for a spirit of humility and openness to all people.
- \* Lift up your church, that it may be a welcoming space for every person—regardless of wealth, background, or status.