

# 4: James

*Accompanies the 5/2/21 Sermon*

## BIG IDEA

Favoritism was a real issue in the time of the early church. So much so that James decided to address the issue directly. If we are honest with ourselves this was not just an early church issue but something that exists today. Every day we see partiality displayed at work, home, in the community, and even at church. Let's take a look at how we can die to ourselves and really love people well.

## GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- What's your favorite?
- Dogs or Cats
- Beach or Mountain
- Tacos or BBQ

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **James 2:1-7**



### The CONTEXT of James

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic. Bring attention to what events are surrounding the text. In this text James is writing to the persecuted church.*

- James's writing reflects much of what Jesus said. Does this section remind you of anything Jesus said or did?
- Take a moment as a group to talk through the events that were surrounding the early church and why James might be writing this. How can this be seen in the church of today?

- According to James what is the motivation behind favoritism?

## GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group; be willing to share how challenges and trials have affected your life.



Have someone in your group read **Luke 6:43 - 45**

How does favoritism contradict the Gospel?

We all tend to show favoritism on occasion. How might the following areas contribute to us showing partiality?

- Social/Economical Status
- Race
- Upbringing
- Media/Social media consumption
- Political party alignment?

What area of life do you need to repent from the sin of showing favoritism?

## HOW WARM IS YOUR WELCOME?

This week Pastor Drew challenged us to evaluate how warm is our welcome. Let's take a moment to discuss how we can be warmer and inviting to others.

1. How can we encourage our children or grandchildren to be more loving?
2. How can we ensure that this group feels open and welcoming to others?
3. How can you as an individual or this LifeGroup help Northeast be a place that is welcoming to others?