

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – May 22, 2022**

**Theme:** James: Faith in Action

**Topic:** The Meekness of Wisdom

**Main Text:** James 3:13-18

**Key verse:** James 3:13 – “*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*” (NIV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Wisdom is something the average person seeks. And that is because wisdom is vital in our navigation of the countless daily situations and choices we need to make in life. Because of the complexities of life and our desire to do what is right, wisdom is something believers probably pray for the most. Our quarter series on **Faith in Action** brings us today, to this important subject of wisdom. Cambridge Dictionary defines wisdom as “the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make **good** decisions and judgements”. It has also been defined as “a moral insight and skill in the practical issues of life”. And the average person wants to make good decisions and judgements in every situation. In James 3:15, God draws our attention to the fact that there are two kinds of wisdom – one good and the other bad.

1. **(a) James 3:15 speaks of a wisdom that is from below and one which is from above. What do you understand by those terms ‘earthly wisdom’, and ‘heavenly wisdom’? (b) From James 3:13-18, why is it important to know about these two types of wisdom? (c) In addition to James 3:13-18, read Romans 8:5-8, and 1 Corinthians 3:3-4. How would you know when one is operating by earthly or heavenly wisdom?**

As believers, we want to make good decisions and judgments, at home, at work, in business, and even in ministry. Theoretically, this should be easy, especially now that we have the Holy Spirit living in us, and the word of God to guide us. But the fact that the exhortation in James 3:13-18 was written to believers means that this heavenly wisdom is not that easy. And to help us know which wisdom one might be operating by in any given time, James outlines the characteristics of both wisdoms. For instance, James says that the earthly wisdom is unspiritual and demonic. And proceeds to give examples of this earthly wisdom (James 3:14-15).

2. **(a) James 3:14-15 mentions evidence of earthly wisdom. What are they? How do these manifest in the different spheres of our existence? (b) Our key verse talks about ‘works done in the meekness of wisdom,’ What role does humility or the absence of it play in the application of wisdom? (c) From James 3:18; Philippians 2: 5-8, let participants mention some qualities which mark the wisdom that is humble and the motivation(s) behind this type of wisdom.**

God is the Source of true wisdom. And this starts with the fear of God (Proverbs 1:7). In James 1:5, we are invited to ask God for this wisdom, should we find ourselves deficient on any issue. Yet, we often exhibit the earthly kind of wisdom – we quarrel and fight, are envious of others, are self-seeking, etc. No matter what our excuse for these less than expected behaviors, God expects us, who are wise and understand God’s ways, to prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom (James 3:13 NLT). A God-given wisdom must show the qualities of God - pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated (willing to yield), full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and hypocrisy (always sincere) (James 3:17). And humility is the vital ingredient that can enable us to exhibit these qualities in our application of our knowledge of the word of God in the daily choices and decisions we make. The Greek word, ‘prautes’ is what is translated as meekness. It carries the idea of humility, gentleness, and mildness, but not because of weakness, but of power and strength which have been placed under control. Godly wisdom does not focus on self, nor does it insist on having its way. It does not press for certain benefits to the detriment of others. Heavenly wisdom does not project self, but points others to Christ who gives grace and is the doer of all things.

3. **(a) Discuss the concept of humble wisdom paying attention to the characteristics listed by James 3: 17. (b) In the light of (a) above, how would you rate the wisdom commonly displayed by believers? (c) How do you think the gospel of Jesus can help to rid your heart of envy and selfish ambition?**

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**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me to embrace humble wisdom. Help me to emulate Christ’s humility more so that I may exhibit more of this humble wisdom which bring You glory, in Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.