

## James: More than Words

*A study for Community Groups to use the week of September 14<sup>th</sup>*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

### Week Six: James 3:13-18

#### Overview

Everyone talks about faith, but what does real faith actually look like? In a world full of noise, opinions, and empty promises, the book of James cuts through the fluff with a bold message: faith isn't just something you say, it's something you live. This series explores how belief in Jesus should shape everyday life, from how we speak, to how we suffer, how we treat others, and how we make decisions. More Than Words is a practical walk through the book of James. It's a call to a faith that shows up, not just on Sundays, but in the moments that matter most.

**Passage: James 3:13-18.** "As in the previous chapters, James began his discussion of human speech with a practical exhortation and continued to deal with increasingly basic issues. He spoke of the importance of controlling one's mind next to enable his readers to understand how to control their tongues. Wisdom in the mind affects one's use of his or her tongue. Note the key words "wise" and "wisdom" (vv. 13, 17), which bracket the thought of this section, as well of the prominence of "peaceable" and "peace" that conclude it." - *Constable Notes*

#### Questions

\*The questions below are designed to supplement the standard questions that we provide in our Group Discussion Guide; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this reveal about God? About People? About the Life He has planned for us?*

1. In chapters 2 & 3 James discusses words and deeds. How do those sections connect with this one on wisdom? How does James encourage us to avoid the temptation at the wisdom level?
2. James mentions worldly wisdom in v.15. What are modern day examples of things the world would see as wise but would stand in contrast to what we see in Scripture? Are there any you personally see as a struggle to avoid?
3. James gives a list of this wisdom from above in v.17-18. What are the first steps to take to see that produced in your mind and life? What's the difference between trying to produce it yourself and yielding to God's Spirit to produce in you? Is there a way to tell the difference?
4. In seeking to live according to wisdom from heaven, what does a person need? What practices or resources might a person want to insure they are doing or looking to in order to avoid earthly wisdom and live according to heavenly wisdom?