

WISDOM FROM BELOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JAMES 3:13-18

- 1 James says that wisdom from below leads to “disorder and every vile practice.” What mental pictures come to mind when you hear that phrase?

⚙️ *What situations in the church might James have in mind?*

⚙️ *What situations in the church might you have in mind?*

- 2 **Case Study: Acts 15:1-35, the episode known as The Jerusalem Council. James is no stranger to controversy within the Body of Christ. In Acts, he is a part of 2 situations that required wisdom to navigate through. Look through one of these case studies and take note of how James demonstrates Wisdom from Above in contrast to “Wisdom from Below.”**

⚙️ *What was the issue driving the church toward division?*

⚙️ *How was “wisdom from below” being shown?*

⚙️ *How was the conflict resolved?*

⚙️ *What did James appeal to in order to resolve the conflict?*

💡 *How was the Gospel magnified in this issue within the church?*

- 3 **Oftentimes ministry can actually magnify the characteristics of “bitter jealousy (envy)” and “selfish ambition” (rivalry). When we work alongside others, it doesn’t take long for our true selves to come to the surface.**

✂️ *Bitter Jealousy: What does this look like in your life? Where have you shown this kind of envy, either at home, at work (or school), or especially within the context of church life?*

✂️ *Selfish Ambition: What does selfish ambition cause you to think of? Where might this kind of rivalry show up in life?*

