



LifeGroup Discussion Packet

Loving People Like Jesus

Series: What Matters Most

James 2:1-17

April 18-19, 2026

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Main Idea:

Real faith shows up in the way we treat people, especially those others overlook.

Key Verse:

“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?” James 2:1 (NLT)

Warm-Up Question:

When have you walked into a room and immediately felt either welcomed or overlooked? What made the difference?

Discussion Questions

- In James 2:1-4, James confronts favoritism in the church. Why do you think people so naturally judge others by appearance, status, success, or usefulness?
- The message said, “It is possible to know the right theology and still treat people with the wrong spirit.” Why is that statement so convicting, and how can that happen in real life?
- Read James 2:1-4. What are some modern ways favoritism can show up in church, at work, at school, or even in our own homes?
- Jesus stopped for Bartimaeus when others tried to silence him. What does that story teach us about the heart of Jesus toward people who are often ignored or pushed aside?
- Read James 2:5-13. James says we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Why is that easy to admire but often hard to practice, especially with difficult, awkward, or needy people?
- The message said, “People who have been restored by mercy should not become stingy with mercy.” How does remembering God’s mercy toward you change the way you respond to others?

- The message pointed back to Peter’s restoration in John 21. What stands out to you most about the way Jesus treated Peter after his failure, and how should that shape the way we treat people who have failed?
- Read James 2:14-17. James says faith without action is dead. What is the difference between saying loving things and actually showing love in practical ways?
- The message said, “If your faith never leaves your lips and reaches your hands, James says it is not living faith. It is hollow faith.” What does that statement challenge in you personally?
- Who in your life right now may need more than kind words? What might it look like this week to move toward them with the love of Jesus in a tangible way?

Going Deeper

The message said, “Real faith is not just about what you believe in your head. It is about what people experience through your life.” If someone experienced your faith this past week, what would they have felt most clearly: favoritism, mercy, or action?

Next Step

This week, ask God to put one person clearly on your heart, someone who may feel overlooked, burdened, lonely, or pushed aside. Then do one practical thing to show them the love of Jesus. Send the text. Make the call. Offer the ride. Buy the meal. Start the conversation. Real faith does not just notice people. It moves toward them.