James | Playing Favorites
3/10/2024
Reflect + Discuss

- What's a recent favorite "something" for you? What's a long-held favorite you have?

- What are some of the ways our society and culture show favoritism? Who are some of the people or groups that are elevated and who is looked over?

- Tell a story of a time when you felt 'unfavored.' James writes that those who are "poor in the eyes of the world" can be "rich in faith." In what ways does your experience of feeling 'unfavored' align (or not align) with feeling 'rich in faith'?

- Share about a type of favoritism where you've experienced personal growth. How would you describe your former attitudes? What sparked a change? What's an area of your life where you still notice yourself occasionally favoring some people over others?

- Read James 2:1-5. How does favoritism affect our communities and relationships? What steps can we take to try and mitigate this and treat people the way God sees them?

- Read James 2:8-13. James clearly sees loving our neighbors as central to being a Christ follower. When James was written this was a revolutionary command. Do you think this is still the case? How does it look the same or different?

- How can practicing loving our neighbors help dismantle favoritism in our lives and community? What might loving your neighbor look like in your life right now?

- How can we support each other in becoming "doers of the word," actively working against favoritism to build a more inclusive and loving community that doesn't show the favoritism the world does?

Pray

- Pray that we would be the type of community that doesn't show the favoritism the world does. Pray for a correction to the favoritism in your own heart. Ask that God would give you his eyes to see people the way he does and treat them in accordance with the upside-down values of the kingdom.

Next Steps

- Check out the resources page for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out courses.