

2014-10-12 Life Group

**Mercy Wins!**

*James 2:1-13*

STUDY & DISCUSSION 30-45 minutes

Open: If you could be the gold medalist in some Olympic sport which would it be and why?

Read: Read James 2:1-4.

Observe: In the church that James wrote to, people were making judgments about others based on external appearances. What categories were they judging by and which ones were preferred?

Apply: Does this still happen in churches today? How?

Read: Read James 2:5-7.

Interpret: Evidently the church was wrong in its judgments. According to this passage, who is really important in the Kingdom of God? Why do you think that is?

Observe: Read Matthew 9:9–13. Who are judging and who are being judged?

Interpret: Jesus said, “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’” What does that mean?

Read: Read James 2:8-11.

Interpret: How is this section similar to the passage about “taking the log out of your own eye.”

Read: Read James 2:12-13

Interpret: What do you think it means “*judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful?*” Is this talking about us with God or us with others? Explain.

Read: Luke 6:37–38.

Read: In what other areas of life does this principle of “reciprocity” apply to? How do you feel about that?

Apply: Pastor Scott said that the Bible calls us to be discerning about right and wrong but not judgmental of wrong doers. What is the difference and how is this done?

Apply: How do you know when you are being judgmental?

Apply: 1 Corinthians 4:5 says, *“Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.”* How can remembering this eternal truth help you choose mercy?

Apply: Mercy Wins! Where do you struggle with mercy? What is God calling you to do or think differently?