



Discussion Guide

February 1, 2015



Discussion Questions	Leader Notes
<p>Origins of the "Sunday Best" People began getting all dressed up to go to church sometime around the end of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. The industrial revolution created a growing middle class who could now afford some of the same fine duds that was once only a privilege known by the wealthy. Just like Stuart in downtown Cincinnati, they wanted the special treatment that had been reserved solely for those in fine threads. Where else would one wear their best than to Sunday worship? So, who was being worshipped?</p>	<p>Before you begin today, think of a time in your life when no matter how hard you tried/worked someone other than you received special treatment.</p> <p>Helpful Hint: Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.</p>
<p>Discussion Kick Off</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe a situation in your life when you witnessed a teacher, coach, boss, leader at camp, etc., give more attention and favor to someone other than you. Did everyone recognize it? How did you feel about it? 2. Let's turn the table, have you ever been shown favoritism by someone else? How did the special treatment make you feel? 	
<p>Evaluate It</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do people show favoritism? Why do we "roll out the red carpet" for the wealthy person and accommodate the less than wealthy person? 2. When it comes to who we give respect to, does their wealth matter, their past fame, their current fame, their family, where they live, who their kids are, who their parents and friends are? 3. What does the church do to the poor person when it shows favoritism toward the rich? 4. If you had to sum up these verses into one word or one short phrase, what would it be? Describe the person who personifies what James is saying here and then describe the believer who lives in contrast to James' words here. 	<p>Read James 2: 1-13. Make it more interesting by reading from the Message version (free on the You Version Bible App).</p>
<p>Make It Personal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What would it look like in your world if you put verse 8 into action and loved your neighbor as yourself? 2. Stuart said in his sermon, "The only way they will find out and the only way they can know they don't have to be down there is by the mercy, forgiveness and grace they receive from you and from me. Where do you find the motivation to treat everyone equally?" Answer the question he asked. What happens if we forget we were once that person? 	
<p>Take It Home A few weeks ago, my daughter Stella and I went to the UK/Missouri game at Rupp Arena. As luck would have it, while we were leaving the arena, ESPN Analyst and former coach Seth Greenburg walked past. I was tempted to take a selfie, but it was late and I figured he wanted to catch some z's as much as I did. This got me to thinking. I believe we show favoritism to the wealthy, powerful and famous because we believe that we will get something out of it. What would it look like if we were more focused on giving than getting?</p>	<p>At the end of the discussion, take a moment to take prayer requests from the group (if you haven't done so) and pray for your group before you end your time together.</p>

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcetown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcetown.com Senior Minister

Chris Kiger chris@fcetown.com Student Minister

Jason Fox jason@fcetown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcetown.com Connections Minister

Tim Hurd tim@fcetown.com Children's Minister

Shannon Smith Shannon@fcetown.com Assistant Children's Director