

**WARM UP** | At the prayer meeting my wife wanted to bring a scripture. She did, and I was immediately taken by the words “this wisdom”. I realised right there that there was a wisdom that was not from God and I was using it to justify an action that God did not like. It required some repentance on my part straight away.



**READ** | James 3:14-17



## BACKGROUND |

This verse makes it plain that there are two sources of wisdom. So we can have a wisdom from the enemy that makes us feel wise and we can justify ourselves and think ourselves smart only to discover that we are opposing God. James started in chapter one saying that if we lack wisdom we only have to ask. Now he takes it further and makes us aware that we need to make sure we tap into the right source.

I had a situation where I had been wronged. I told others about what had been done to me and of course, I was in the right, and what was done was not Christian. It made me look good and people felt sorry for what had been done. But in that morning I saw that wisdom from God means you forgive and move on and stop talking about the past. It was a shock to see the wisdom I had was not from God and I had to repent and stop talking.

## QUESTIONS |

- 1 Can you give an example of worldly wisdom?
- 2 Can you think of a time in your life when you have operated out of wisdom that was out of bitter envy or self-seeking?

- 3 Jesus asked us to die to self, but we see here that self-seeking has a wisdom of its own. How do you conquer self-seeking?

- 4 The verses in James speak of wisdom from above. Can you show how any of these characteristics are working in your life right now? If not how could you make them a part of your life?

## CONSIDER THIS |

*Wisdom has built her house. She has hewn out her seven pillars. Proverbs 9:1*

*Can you see seven pillars here in James? Now refer to Proverbs 8 and look at what this has to say about wisdom. It is a great chapter. Notice one thing:*

*For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. (Verse 11)*

*Riches and honour are with me, enduring riches and righteousness. (Verse 18)*

*Wisdom is better than riches, yet they come with wisdom. More importantly, the enduring riches for eternity come from wisdom.*



## MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

**What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?**

## IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER |

## WRAP UP |

Look again at Proverbs 8 and decide as a group what you could do to get wisdom in your life and discover the life that is promised to you in these verses.