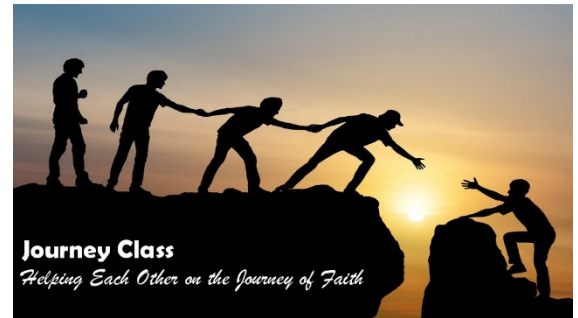


James – Sowing Seeds of Peace

In the middle of conflict, some people use a soothing tone of voice. Some speak firmly while never raising their voices. Others wait patiently until all the verbal heat is spent before they respond.

Think of a time when you saw someone bring peace to a volatile situation or light to a dark place. How did that person accomplish it?



Read James 3:13-18

James says that Godly “wisdom” has eight traits:

- pure - peaceful - gentle - willing to yield - full of mercy - fruitful - impartial - sincere

When you think of a person who has “Godly wisdom,” which of these traits do you observe in them?

How have you seen, or experienced, jealousy and selfishness causing confusion and evil things?

What happens when people work for peace?

What does it mean to “sow seeds of peace”? When have you seen that happen?

How does a wise person resolve conflict?

How does this passage challenge you to deal with conflicts in your relationships?

What are practical ways we can bring peace to a conflict we may be facing?

When we face conflict that is escalating, hit the “pause” button and think it through. If envy, anger, or selfish ambition is present, wisdom is usually absent. Before we speak or engage in a conflict situation, it’s wise to run our plans past the eight traits of wisdom that James listed. If our thoughts do not embody those traits, perhaps it is time to rethink.

Prayers...



Being strong for each other

Closing Devotion:

Father, we don’t always want to seek peace. Forgive us. Keep us from contributing to conflict instead of resolving it, for fanning flames of discord instead of spreading peace. Give us your wisdom, Father – wisdom to be submissive, merciful, and gentle.