

Digging Deeper: James 3:13–18

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Day 1

Pull out your journal to record your thoughts, ideas, and prayers. Pray for God to help you learn and understand. Read James 3:13–18. Think about the people in your life, that you know, that you feel are godly and wise? What is it about them that makes you feel that way? For verse 13, a number of Bible translations describe the wise as “doing good works with meekness and humility.” Look up the words meekness and humility in the dictionary.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/meekness>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/humility>

Day 2

Pray. Praise God. Thank Him for all He has done for you. Ask God for the forgiveness of sin in your life. Read James 3:13–18. What does the Bible say about good godly conduct that leads to godly wisdom? Check out 1 Timothy 3. What different qualities of godly wisdom can you find written there? Also, check out Matthew 5. Again, what different behaviors does Jesus tell us lead to godliness and godly wisdom? If you have time, keep reading Matthew 6 and 7—Jesus’ famous “Sermon on the Mount.”

Day 3

Find a quiet place. Settle your mind and spirit. Make time and space to listen for the Holy Spirit and learn from Him. Bring your requests to God. Read James 3:13–18. In contrast to verse 13, verse 14 pivots to unwise behaviors. Write down the behaviors, motivations, and feelings you see in verses 14, 15, and 16. Also, check out Ephesians 4:25–32. What else can we learn about wise vs. unwise behaviors and motivations?

Day 4

Pray. Ask God who it is you are supposed to encourage today. Check in with them. Call or send a note. Read James 3:13–18. If you are doing good works for others in the name of God and Jesus but are motivated by pride and selfish ambition, how does the Bible say that’s going to turn out for you? See verses 14–16. Also, check out Romans 2:1–11 and what it teaches us about this.

Day 5

Pray and ask God how you are supposed to be a good friend and neighbor today. Read James 3:13–18. In verse 17, what do we learn about the wisdom of God? Compare this to what we learn in Galatians 5:16–26. What promise are we given in Ephesians 1:17? What are some ways that these passages are connected? What are some things we need to do to gain a “Spirit of wisdom”?

Day 6

As you pray, reflect and discuss with the Holy Spirit about the past days and how you can apply what you learned this week for His glory. One last time, read James 3:13–18. In verse 18, we read about being a peacemaker. Let’s check out the definition of the word peacemaker:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/peacemaker>

What else can we find in our Bible about peacemakers and peacemaking? Check out these verses: Proverbs 12:20, Romans 14:19, Matthew 5:9, Colossians 3:15, and Matthew 22:37–40.