

## Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

May 6-9, 2019

Series: Faith Lives Here

James 2:1-13



### Announcements:

**Summer Getaway:** Join us for the Summer Getaway at Great Country Farms in Bluemont, VA. Enjoy playgrounds, wagon rides, a jumping pillow, farm animals, and more! Bring family and friends and make a day of it! **Saturday, June 22 from 10 am to 2 pm** at Great Country Farms, 18780 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135. Group tickets at the gate are \$8 for guests ages 3+. (Tell them you're with Grace Downtown).

**Network Worship Service and Members Meeting:** All three congregation of the Grace DC Network will meet for worship at **10:30 am on June 16** at Grace Meridian Hill, 810 Shepherd Street, NW. Worship will be followed by our annual members' meeting to vote on leadership candidates and review budget. There will be no 5 pm Downtown worship service that day.

**Civil Rights History Tour of the South:** Join us this summer for a Civil Rights History Tour of the South, led by the Grace Downtown Diaconate. The trip to **Georgia** and **Alabama** will be from **Wednesday 8/7 to Saturday 8/10**. Interest meeting will be held on **May 19** after service in the fellowship hall. Contact Meg at [megmontee@gmail.com](mailto:megmontee@gmail.com).

**Grace Downtown Women's Retreat:** Save the Date! **Sat May 18**, come retreat with other women of Grace Downtown for the opportunity to hear teaching, deepen friendships and have time for reflection. We will gather for breakfast in the morning, study God's word together, connect over lunch in small groups, and depart in the early evening. If you are interested in helping with organization and planning, please email the WLC at [wlc@gracedc.net](mailto:wlc@gracedc.net). **Deadline to register: May 15.**

### Introduction:

Think back over your last week at your place of work and among your relationships. Can you think of any times when you treated certain people better than other people? Have there been any clear examples of your showing favoritism, or of your being prejudiced?

### Read and Discuss:

#### James 2:1-13

#### Vv 1-7:

1. The issue being discussed here is pretty straightforward. Summarize it.
2. Give examples of how the sort of discrimination being critiqued in this passage occurs today in our churches. Do we treat people differently, based solely on their class or economic status? What are other examples besides rich/poor where we sometimes discriminate today?

3. How does God view people differently than we do?

**Vv. 8-11:**

1. How does showing favoritism break the commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself”?
2. In what sense is showing favoritism just as bad as murder or adultery?

**Vv. 12-13:**

1. What is James’ point about the “law” and “freedom”?
2. What does it mean, “Mercy triumphs over judgment”? How are mercy and judgment related?

### **Application**

1. It sounds so obvious and reasonable: we are to treat all people equally. And yet most of us do in fact show *some* degree of favoritism towards *some* people. What kinds of people do you tend to treat with favoritism, or look down upon? Why?
2. When the secular world observes Christians, would it say many of our churches do indeed show favoritism towards certain kinds of people?

### **Prayer**

*The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to pray...*

...for those at our church struggling at their job. Pray for God to restore them physically and spiritually. Pray that the Lord would open doors for them to transition to new opportunities and in doing so, that God would transform these job situations into life-giving opportunities for sharing the peace of God with others.

...for those who are engaged to be married. Give thanks to the Lord for the beautiful gift of marriage that reflects the love he has for his church. Pray that our church would provide love and support for everyone beginning a covenant relationship together.

...for the Lord to revitalize our faith and move us beyond thinking about faith to working out our faith. Ask that the Holy Spirit would work in us to actively love and serve our neighbors as ourselves. Pray that our church would continue to support missionaries around the world and that the Lord would use all of us as his hands and feet.