



Sermon Discussion Guide

A Renewed Perspective - Christian Lindbeck

March 27, 2022

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- Is there a time you have been dazzled by someone's opulence, and what you could see at face value?
- When have you formed a first impression of something or someone, and found that this missed the mark? What truth had you missed at first glance?

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Take time to re-read James 2: 1-13
- In verse 1, how does James ground the identity of his audience?
- In verses 2-4, James vividly describes a potential show of favoritism based on wealth. What stands out in his description?
- James yearns for his audience to become "mature and complete" (James 1: 4). How does James 2: 1-13 add to our understanding of this maturity and completeness in Christ?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- James describes favoritism based on wealth - what other favoritisms are found in our world today?
- How does God's perspective of people differ from what we can judge at face value?
- How does this passage call us to live into the command to "Love your neighbor as yourself" (James 2:8)?



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- Who is someone you have known who has lived out this call to obedience?
How have you found their example encouraging?
- What obstacles prevent us from living fully into this call?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- James' message aims to convict and encourage us.
 - How do you feel led to respond in the week ahead?
 - What encouragement do you take from this passage?
- What is one place in your life where God is calling for you to shift his perspective more closely into alignment with His perspective?
 - Take time to pray together for true perspective in these places, grounded in the Father, Son, Spirit, and Truth

Time of Prayer