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## Sermon Discussion Guide

### Peacemaking Wisdom - Tim Knipp

April 24, 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.
- Who in your life would you say has true wisdom? How is this shown through them?
- When have you been going into a challenging conversation that you knew could either deeply divide people, or bring them closer together in peace and understanding? (What Tim would call a "Streets of Jerusalem Moment")? What feelings dominated that moment?

#### Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Take time to re-read James 3:13-18
- What does the description of true wisdom in this passage show us about God's heart and his hopes for us?
- How does the wisdom of the world lead us away from God's heart?
- In James 2:14-25, James talks about faith and deeds. How does today's passage build upon what was read in James 2?
- **Read Matthew 5:3-11**
- **How does James' teaching on wisdom reflect Jesus' teaching in the beatitudes?**



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#### 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.
- Discuss the ways that the wisdom of the world has an impact on us.
- How can we best discern when we may be using counterfeit wisdom, as opposed to God-centered wisdom? What does this look like personally for you?
- Share about a time when someone genuinely aimed to be a peacemaker in a challenging situation. What did this look like? How did it yield fruit?
- What are some areas of conflict or tension in our world that cry out for the peacemaking wisdom James describes? How would the situation change?

#### 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.
- Where do you have the opportunity to be a peacemaker this week? What forms might this work take?
- Think about a place in your life where the wisdom of the world may be influencing your thoughts and actions. This week, pray that Jesus would reveal his will for you in that place.
- Throughout this week, return to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11).

#### Time of Prayer