



# COMMUNITY GUIDE

June 13, 2021

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## WEEKLY APPLICATION

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**TAKEAWAY:** The way we behave toward people indicates what we really believe about God.

**HEAD CHANGE:** We cater to certain groups of people in hopes of getting something from them. Jesus served all people to give something to them.

**HEART CHANGE:** We only believe as much of the bible as we practice.

**LIFE CHANGE:** We are not saved by good works. We are saved for good works.

## OVERVIEW

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James 2 says we must not show favoritism, but, instead, love our neighbor as ourselves. We cater to certain groups of people in hopes of getting something from them - Jesus served all people to give something to them. The enemy wants to divide the Church, and we need to be intentional and diligent to preserve our unity. We have to fight together against division. James examines five basic Christian doctrines in the light of the way we treat other people in order to learn how to love well, how to practice the, "Royal Law."

*"Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So, if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law."*

-James 2:8-11-

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What are some ways you have shown favoritism or experienced the negative effects of favoritism in your life? Why is it important to look at others from the inside out?
2. Talk about what kind of language divides us and what kind unites us. How can you use your words to promote unity in your home, church, and community?
3. What does it mean to show love without judgment? Talk about some practical ways we can love our neighbors as ourselves?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER

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Father, thank You for making us one in You. Give us Your perspective and Your heart for others so we can be quick to extend love and mercy in every situation. Help us to never favor one person over another, but to love our neighbors as ourselves. Give us awareness and strength to resist the attacks of the enemy that would divide us, and empower us to fight for unity together, in Jesus' Name.

**IN THIS TOGETHER!**