

Week of October 30 - "The Lawbreaker" - Small Group Lesson Lesson 6

Connect

How would you react if a policeman pulled you over and wrote you a speeding ticket for going only 1 km/h over the speed limit? Would you take it to court? Do you think you will win? Why or why not?

Verses - James 2:8-13 (CSB)

8 Indeed, if you fulfill the royal law prescribed in the Scripture, Love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing well. 9 If, however, you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all. 11 For he who said, Do not commit adultery, also said, Do not murder. So if you do not commit adultery, but you murder, you are a lawbreaker.

12 Speak and act as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has not shown mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Study

1. What is the royal law? What makes it “royal”? How do you define “neighbor”? How is this a contrast to favoritism? (v.8; James 1:25; 2:1,9; Romans 5:8)

2. To what is James essentially saying favoritism is as bad as and, how does he come to that conclusion? Why is the slightest violation of the Law just as bad as the most heinous? (Matthew 5:22-24; Matthew 22:37-40)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** Why do we tend to show favoritism even when we know we should not? How can a high view of God help us not to? (Leviticus 19:17-19; 1 Samuel 16:7)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** How does the gospel reflect on God’s attitude towards favoritism? (Galatians 3:10-13; Ephesians 2:8–9)

3. What is the “law of freedom” (v.12) compared to in verse 13? What does showing favoritism have to do with judgment? How does God not show any? (Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:7)

🏃 **APPLY 2:** How is mercy an application of the gospel? How does a lack of mercy show one’s level of spiritual maturity? (1 Peter 1:3; Lamentations 3:22-23; Romans 12:2)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** Why do you think Jesus mostly ministered to Jerusalem and the surrounding area, but Paul was sent to bring the gospel to the Gentiles? Was Jesus showing favoritism? (Acts 1:8; 10:34–36; see John 7:8)

Share

How does favoritism affect our relationships? Why is it OK to have a favorite color or flavor, but not OK to have favoritism in the church of God? (Ephesians 4:3)

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the church to be united for the gospel and serving the Lord.
- Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel this week.