

JAMES 2:1-13

Prejudice and Favoritism

- 1** Have you ever made a snap judgement about someone based on a first impression? Was your first impression accurate?
 - a. How do our first impressions affect how we treat others?

- 2** Do you believe that we all walk around with hidden prejudices and biases?
 - a. Is it true that material wealth, level of power or influence, position, occupation, etc. influence how you treat people – consciously or subconsciously?
 - b. Do you think this is a general sin of the Church (not specifically our church) – as a part of American church culture, are we guilty of treating those with power (like a politician) better than those who seemingly need more than they can give (like someone living in poverty)?

- 3** The word “favoritism” in the New Testament is translated as “respector of persons.”
 - a. Read 1 Samuel 16:7. What does this verse say about how God views every human being?
 - b. Every person was made in the image of God. Go around your circle and name one word that describes how God views you – here are a few to get you started: Loved. Qualified. Blameless.
 - c. Do we truly believe those words apply to people different than us with varying political views, social status, income levels, ethnicities, etc.?
 - d. How can we be a “respector of persons” and see people as God sees them?

- 4** Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14. What are some ways that all people—regardless of social status or material wealth—can contribute to the kingdom of God?

