

## Small Group Discussion Questions

Following the Weekend of May 11-12, 2024

No need to answer every question. Feel free to jump around.

### Thoughtful Reflection

(James 3:13-18)

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

### Group Interaction & Application

Read aloud together James 3:13-18.

What words, phrases, concepts, or images from these verses stand out to you as you just read them, or create a curiosity for you in some way?

What aspects of Pastor Alan's message gave you fresh insight into this passage, or helped you the most in understanding these verses and what we experience here?

In addition to living a life rooted in allegiance to God (last week's sermon), James continues to list ways for Christians to live Biblically wise lives. In this week's sermon, Pastor Alan dives into two more characteristics of Biblical wisdom shared by James: to be considerate and impartial (James 3:17).

How well do you practice these two characteristics when you engage with the world of politics (or other heated conversations)? What is shaping how well you apply these traits?

Pastor Alan highlighted two vulnerabilities, Tribalism and Confirmation Bias, that we share as humans that make it hard for us to apply what James is inviting us into.

Regarding tribalism, how aware are you of the similarity of thought (“group think”) that you are potentially surrounded by?

What are some ways you are potentially being shaped by “group think?”

Where have you potentially felt pressure to adopt the thought(s) of those around you even when you may question or even disagree with the collective idea?

Where might you potentially be unknowingly casting expectations on those around you without giving an opportunity to hear where others stand?

Regarding confirmation bias, how aware are you of the influence this could be making on where you stand on any number of topics from politics to how you raise your kids to the diet you choose to eat, etc.?

Where might you be most vulnerable to the influence of confirmation bias?

What voices, if any, are you potentially giving too much volume in your life?

If you have noticed how the internet exploits this vulnerability in you, share some examples.

If you are already taking intentional steps to be more considerate and more impartial in navigating the complex topics of this world, share what steps you are taking.

If you desire to be more intentional in being more considerate and more impartial, what steps could you start taking?

For the complex issues of life (including politics), how often do you approach Jesus asking Him for guidance?

And how willing are you to approach Jesus with enough openness to potentially hear Him even if he presents you with a new perspective?

If you have experienced something like this in the past (where Jesus gave you a whole new perspective), share a bit about this experience with the group.

Or if you remember a time when through an open mind, someone presented a topic in a way that helped you change your perspective, share a little about this experience.

Conclude by praying for one another in taking practical next steps in applying this weekend’s message and group discussion, after which pray for group needs and concerns.

**Messages are available in audio or video on our App or at [cccgreeley.org](http://cccgreeley.org).**