

TAKING DOWN A GIANT

James 2:1-13

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

Overview

Read **Matt 10:16** What do you think this verse is telling you personally?

Read **Eph 6:10** This verse gives us spiritual insight. What is it?

1. The Giant's DAILY FOOD IS A FAULTY THINKING

JAMES 2:1

- What does it mean to "show no partiality?"
- Read **Acts 10:34-35**
- What is Peter telling us about God?
- What does that tell us about us?
- Can you identify the Giant that we as Christians have to wrestle against?
- Has there been a time in your life when you've been judged by your outward appearance and if so, do you think the judgment represented the real you?
- Have you or are you holding a prejudice (pre-judgement) or forming an opinion about someone before you know them?
- What does it mean to hold the faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory?
- James' generation was filled with prejudice, hatred based on class, ethnicity, nationality and religious background. Do you think we still categorize people into different groups today? Why?
- Read **Eph 2:14-22** What would happen if everyone would live according to these verses?

2. The Giant's MOTIVE IS HIDDEN

JAMES 2:2-4

- What does it mean to show favoritism?
- What is the situation James describes in **verses 2-4**?
- What motivation do people have for showing favor to the rich?
- What is the underlying motivation for ignoring or insulting the poor?
- In what way does favoritism make one a judge?
- How does favoritism make one a judge with evil thoughts?
- Do you think church is the only place we are to welcome the poor?

3. The Giant's ENEMY IS THE ROYAL LAW

JAMES 2:5-13

- In **v. 5** how does God reveal that favoritism to the rich is wrong?
- What does this verse tell us about God's character?
- Why doesn't it make sense to show bias to the rich? (refer to **verses 6-7**)
- What is the insult to the poor in **v.6**?
- How does **Lev 19:18** kill the Giant of prejudice?
- What is Scripture's Royal Law?
- Why is it called the Royal Law?
- What is the fulfilling of the Royal Law?
- How serious is showing partiality?
- In what way does failing the law at just one point make us guilty of breaking it all?
- Since we have all broken at least one law, what hope do we have?
- When we are tempted to show partiality, what should we remember from **v. 12**?
- What does James mean when he says, "mercy triumphs over judgement?" (check out **Matt 5:7 and 6:14-15**)
- When will the **mercy we show on earth be extended to us again**?
- What does **Matt 7:2** tell us?
- What does following the Law of Liberty do for us?

Summary

- If a person has no mercy towards others, what does that show about his/her heart?
- When a person shows mercy, what does that show about his/her heart?
- Are there people or groups that you show favoritism to?
- How can you change your attitudes and actions?
- As you reflect on this message, is there any given situation you can remember when God was asking you to apply the royal law?
- What are some ways you might reach out to others who are different than you?