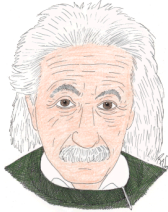


The Wise and the Fighters

(James 3:13-4:12)

1. Who is someone you consider to be wise? What makes them wise in your eyes?



An opening question to get them thinking. Will probably get answers like 'age and experience, not rash in making decisions, someone they trust etc'.

Read James 3:13-4:12

2. Fill in the following Table:

False Wisdom	True Wisdom
<i>Where it comes From</i> <i>The devil</i>	<i>Where it Comes From</i> <i>Heaven / God</i>
<i>Its Character</i> <i>Earthly and unspiritual</i>	<i>Its Character</i> <i>Pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, fruit-bearing, impartial, sincere</i>
<i>Its Results</i> <i>Disorder, and all sorts of sin</i>	<i>Its Results</i> <i>A harvest of righteousness</i>

3. Go back to question 1 – is there anything that you need to amend in your definition of a wise person?

Might need to rethink some qualities – ie doesn't need to be old. It is about character not experience. They don't need to be intellectually smart, but rather reliant on God.

4. How do you think the type or level of wisdom people have would affect the way Christians relate when they meet together as a group?

On the positive side, differing levels of wisdom allow people to build one another up. On the negative it may lead to division and falseness. NOTE – This question links together Ch 3 and 4 (if we are living by 'worldly wisdom' then we will be more inclined to fight with one another)

5. Are you growing in wisdom from heaven? What signs are there to tell you that you are?

A chance for some general thinking of how we can recognise this, as well as personal reflection.

6. List the things that you have most commonly witnessed Christians fighting over. What does such behaviour often lead to?

Sadly it shouldn't be hard to list stuff here. These fights lead to disunity, gossip etc. (On a broader scale we could say that it leads to fights with one another and fights with God).

7. What does the passage teach us is the cause of such destructive behaviour?

A lack of trust / reliance upon God to provide for our needs.

8. As an antidote to such behaviour James outlines in verses 2b, 6-10 a number of things we should do.

Write down and explain what each of these mean:

v7 – Submit ourselves, resist the devil

v8 – Come near to God (through prayer QTs etc), wash our hands and purify our hearts (essentially clean up our conduct and our motives)

v9 – Grieve, mourn and wail; laughter to mourning; joy to gloom (an outcome of being aware of our sinfulness)

v10 – Humble ourselves (essentially a summary of the stuff above)

NOTE – the general pattern goes down, down, down (in our lives / response) so that God will lift us up (v10).

9. When it comes to wisdom and fights, in what ways do you see your Christian life being compromised by:

A chance for personal application.

- Your own desires and passions
- The influence of the world