



Discussion Prompts

The Discussion Prompts are provided to dig deeper into a sermon with the respective title mentioned on the right side of this guide (you can find the sermons at www.manheimbic.org/sermon).

Connect

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship. Just arrive after a long week of all kind of things. - Ask: Who are you personally?

Care

Carry each others burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Cry together. Support each other. Pray together. - Ask: How are you doing?

Challenge

Dive into God's word to learn from each others insight. Encourage & challenge each other to a godly life. - Ask: What is God teaching us today?

Study Guide:

One of the things Pastor Bryce started out with, is reminding us that **Believers ought to be actively living out the relationship with Jesus**. James 2 challenges us in this aspect when it comes to our relationship with other people. As a stark example, Bryce used the story of the women caught in adultery and Jesus' eyes acceptance of the women that is based on the value of a person, not her action. Let's zoom into this a little:

- #1 What behavior do we we tend to judge all too quickly (like the jews did in that story)? What person or group of people do we tend to look down upon, maybe even judge for being sinful? Who is not really fit to be a christian, unless they drastically change?

Now think about that group of people from the above questions. What pre-fabricated, judgmental phrases come to mind? What stigma is associated with that group of people?

- #2 Write down two or three of this stigma phrases. What MEME comes to mind when it comes to *that* group of people? Write them down, and share it in the group.

We can all fall into this trap of casting judgement on *other* people. We categorize them. We have our minds made up on them. But to be honest, in God's eyes we are also sinners. We might not have broken *that one sin*, but we are guilty of another. And in God's eyes, the sin that *we* have committed deserves the death penalty.

Now think about God's undeserved mercy being extended to you. What change of mind takes place when you think about God loving ALL humankind?

- #3 Look back on the group of people you listed in task #1. In light of God's mercy, what does that person, that group of people look like now. Do phrases like "loved by God", "forgiven", "in special need of HIS loving mercy" ... come to mind? They should.

As you wrap up your study, think about just one person. One person you have a stigma on, a pre-judgement, a "I don't think that person is worthy of being part of God's kingdom". Now throw God's undivided MERCY towards you **and** that person into the equation.

- #4 Next time you come across that person, what will your attitude be? Write it down, because in the heat of the moment you might forget your *godly* response.

Clarify

Know what's to do next, with the studies text, within the group, and in general. Have a mission for the week. - Ask: How do we apply what we have learned?

Celebrate

Celebrate life's success and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to *brag* about God. - Ask: What has God done in our life that deserves praise?

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

