One way to define gaining knowledge is the acquiring of facts or information. Wisdom, though, is the ability to use that knowledge in the right way: with sound judgment, a wholistic perspective, and in lessons learned through personal experience. There are different kinds of wisdom, James is quick to point out, and, like other attributes he has explored so far, the kind of wisdom that he is talking about can be seen in the life.

Though other characteristics of wisdom are explored in subsequent verses, James first focuses on the meekness of wisdom. Knowledge, when not tempered with wisdom, can easily lead to arrogance, a completely disproportionate view of one’s own self-importance. Perhaps it’s due to humanity’s natural bent toward selfishness or the inaccurate metric of accomplishment to determine self-worth; in whatever case, nearly everyone can think of someone who comes across as arrogant because of how they wield “how much they know” about this or that. Wisdom, when it’s the right kind, allows the knowledgeable one to see their knowledge in its context, and see themselves in the proper context too. This “proper context” can also be called reality, and it results in meekness.

This week’s lesson will explore how not all wisdom is created equal, but the Christian doesn’t have to be confused about the good and the bad—just like everything else, the evidence is in the fruit.
Write out James 3:13–18 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out James 3:17. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Week Seven
James

Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in James 3:13–18. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Which attribute of heavenly wisdom surprises you the most? Why?

How did Jesus exemplify all of these attributes? Think of them individually.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam07-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Practically speaking, is it possible to have heavenly wisdom and worldly wisdom? Why or why not? What does your answer look like in real life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/jam07-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Deuteronomy 34:9
Psalm 111:10
Proverbs 1
Proverbs 11:2
1 Corinthians 1:17–24

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with James 3:13–18?

Review your memorized verse from James 3:13–18.
What are other reasons why Jesus’ sacrifice doesn’t make sense in the context of worldly wisdom?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on James 3:13–18 again and look for where Jesus is.
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/jam07-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How is wisdom obtained? How is it different from how knowledge is obtained?

Describe a truly wise person that you know. How can you see their wisdom?

Why do you think it is specifically “envy” and “self-seeking” that lead to every other evil?

How can you unlearn the standards of worldly wisdom?

Which of the attributes of heavenly wisdom stand out to you the most? Why?

Why is peace so important in this week’s passage?

Share a time where someone was “willing to yield.” What impression did that experience make on you?