

# Living Faith

*“My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favour some people over others?”*

*James 2:1*

**Getting to know you:** Share about a time when you were treated extra special.

- 1. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-12.** In this passage, we see God identifying a successor to the throne of Israel. What do you notice about Samuel’s response when the Lord sent him on this quest? What do we notice about the Lord’s view of people and how it differed from Samuel’s? What made David God’s choice?
- 2.** Have you ever been in a position to have to choose people—such as a sport’s team captain, hiring an employee, selecting people to serve as volunteer (i.e. on a committee, board, service team, etc.)? What criteria did you base your selection upon? Did it work out well? What part did God play in this process? Have you ever misjudged someone (good or bad) on first impression? What did you learn from this experience? Have you ever been misjudged by someone?

- 3. Read James 2:1-4.** We know James was writing to the early Jewish believers who were scattered abroad. Why do you think James was addressing this issue with these people? Have you ever been in a church that was struggling with the issue of showing preferential treatment to certain people? Often churches get labeled as “clique-y”—this can happen in our small groups, special ministries, and in general? What do you think is the solution to overcoming such problems and helping everyone feel welcome?
  
- 4. Read Luke 10:25-37.** This is a very familiar story. Take some time to place it in our modern day context and discuss who you think you identify with the most in the story. (Priest, Levite, Samaritan, Guy that got robbed, robbers)
  
- 5. Read 1 John 4:7-21.** Discuss the passage. The bottom line seems to be that if you don't love people your faith in, and love for, God are not genuine. As you evaluate your own attitudes towards others, what might need to change?
  
- 6.** Share what you are learning from your Quiet Time and pray for each other.

