



WISDOM FROM HEAVEN

James 3:1–18 · Midweek follow-up

The words we remember

**What is the dumbest thing
you have ever said?**



Our shared need for grace

**“We all stumble
in many ways.”**

James 3:2



1. Our words carry weight

Our influence brings responsibility

Read James 3:1–12

1. Our words carry weight

James 3:1-4

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. 2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. 3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

1. Our words carry weight

James 3:5-8

5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

1. Our words carry weight

James 3:9-12

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness.

10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Small words change a direction

**“I said that badly.
Let me try again.”**

James 3:3–5



A small spark

Words can spread beyond the moment

James 3:5–8



The person receiving our words

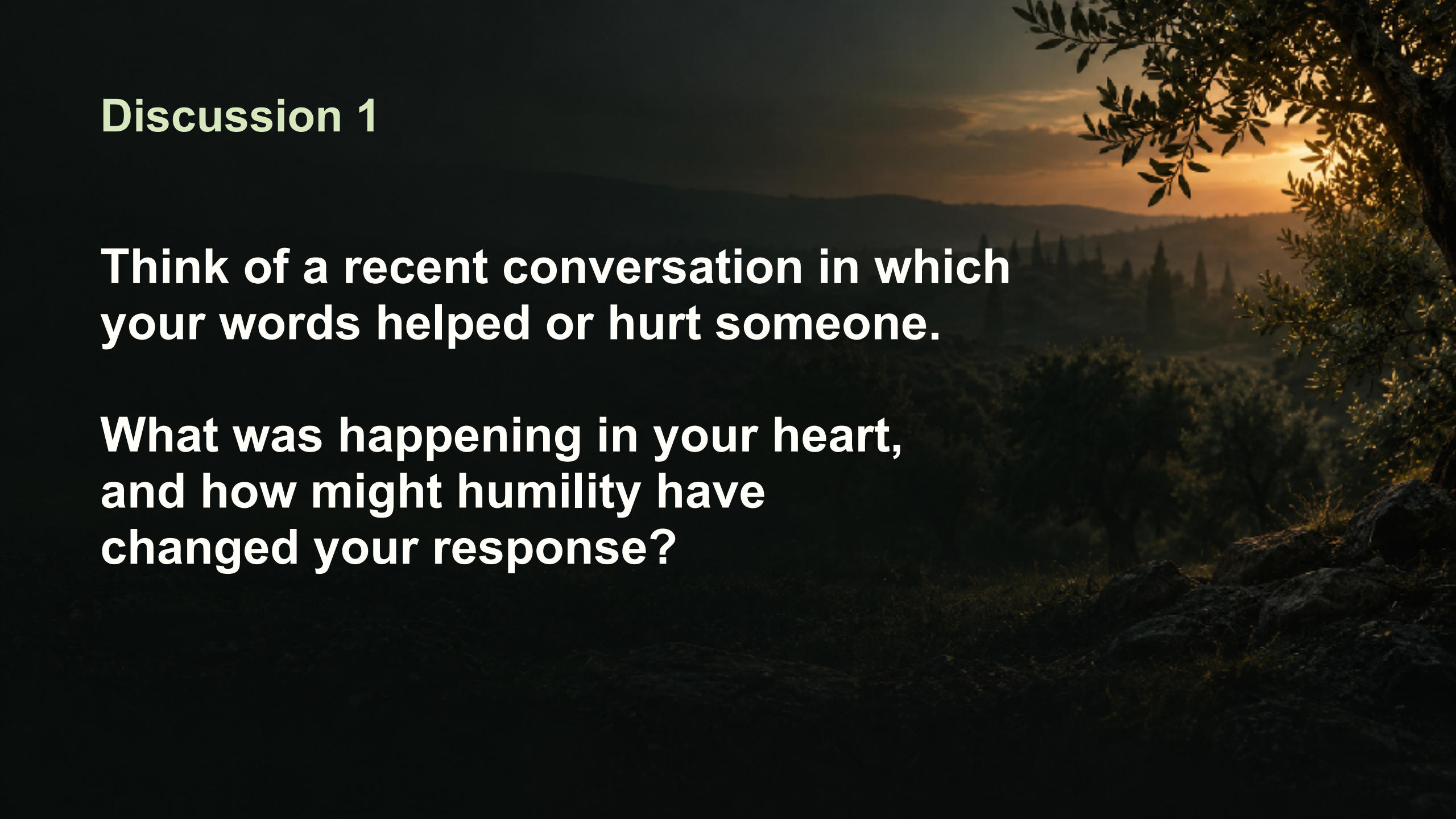
They bear God's likeness

James 3:9–12

Discussion 1

Think of a recent conversation in which your words helped or hurt someone.

What was happening in your heart, and how might humility have changed your response?



2. Wisdom shows itself through humility

Wisdom is not something you claim.

**Wisdom is something
you demonstrate.**

Read James 3:13–18

2. Wisdom shows itself through humility

James 3:13-18

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

2. Wisdom shows itself through humility

James 3:13-18

16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

A close-up photograph of an olive branch with several small, green olives hanging from it. The branch is in sharp focus, while the background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with trees and a bright, hazy sky. The overall tone is warm and natural.

Our motives

Envy and selfish ambition need honest examination

James 3:14–16

Heavenly wisdom

**Pure
Peace-loving
Considerate
Submissive**

James 3:17





Heavenly wisdom

Full of mercy and good fruit
Impartial
Sincere

James 3:17

Humility in an ordinary conversation

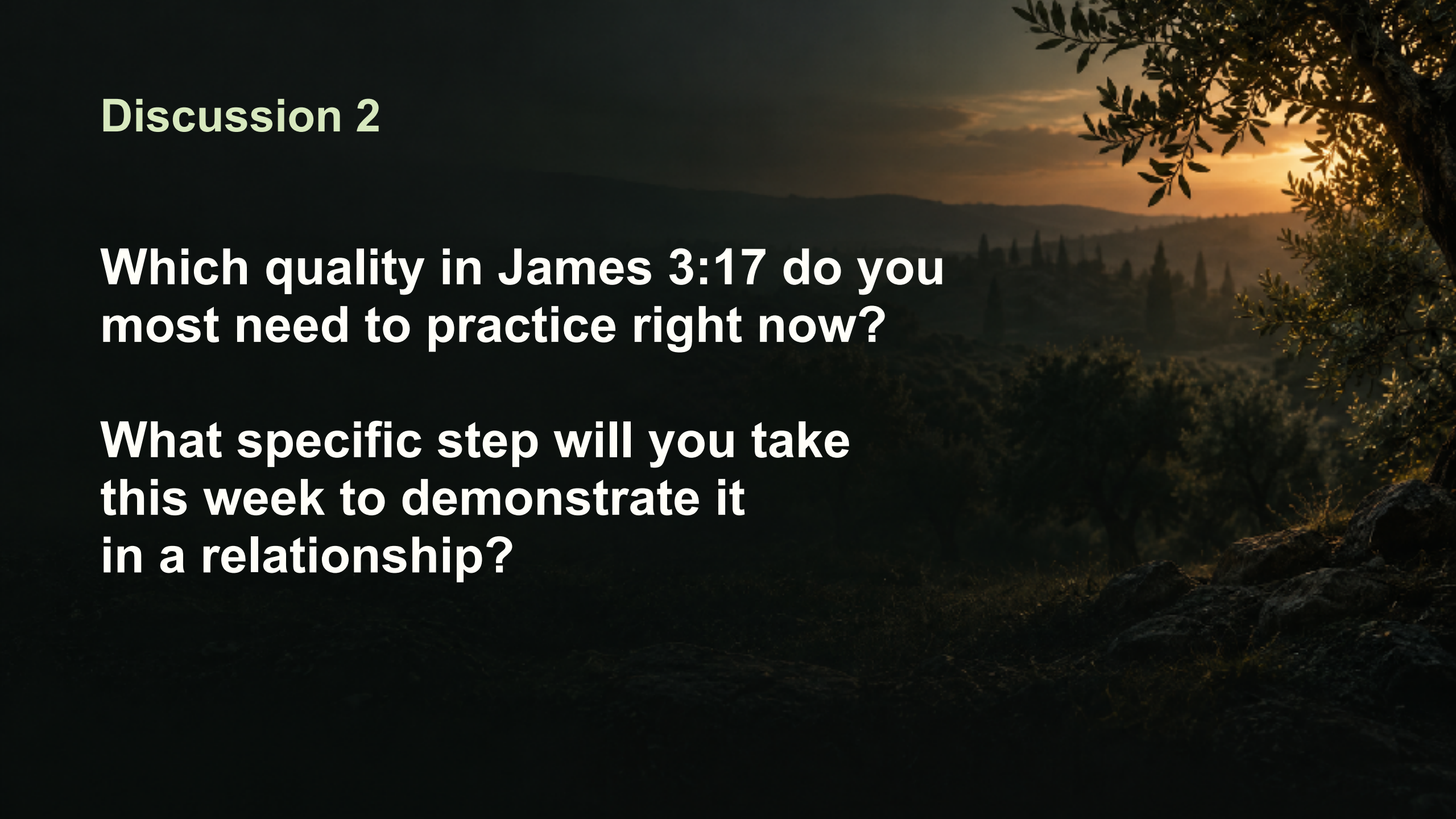
**“Help me understand
what felt dismissive.”**

James 3:18

Discussion 2

Which quality in James 3:17 do you most need to practice right now?

What specific step will you take this week to demonstrate it in a relationship?

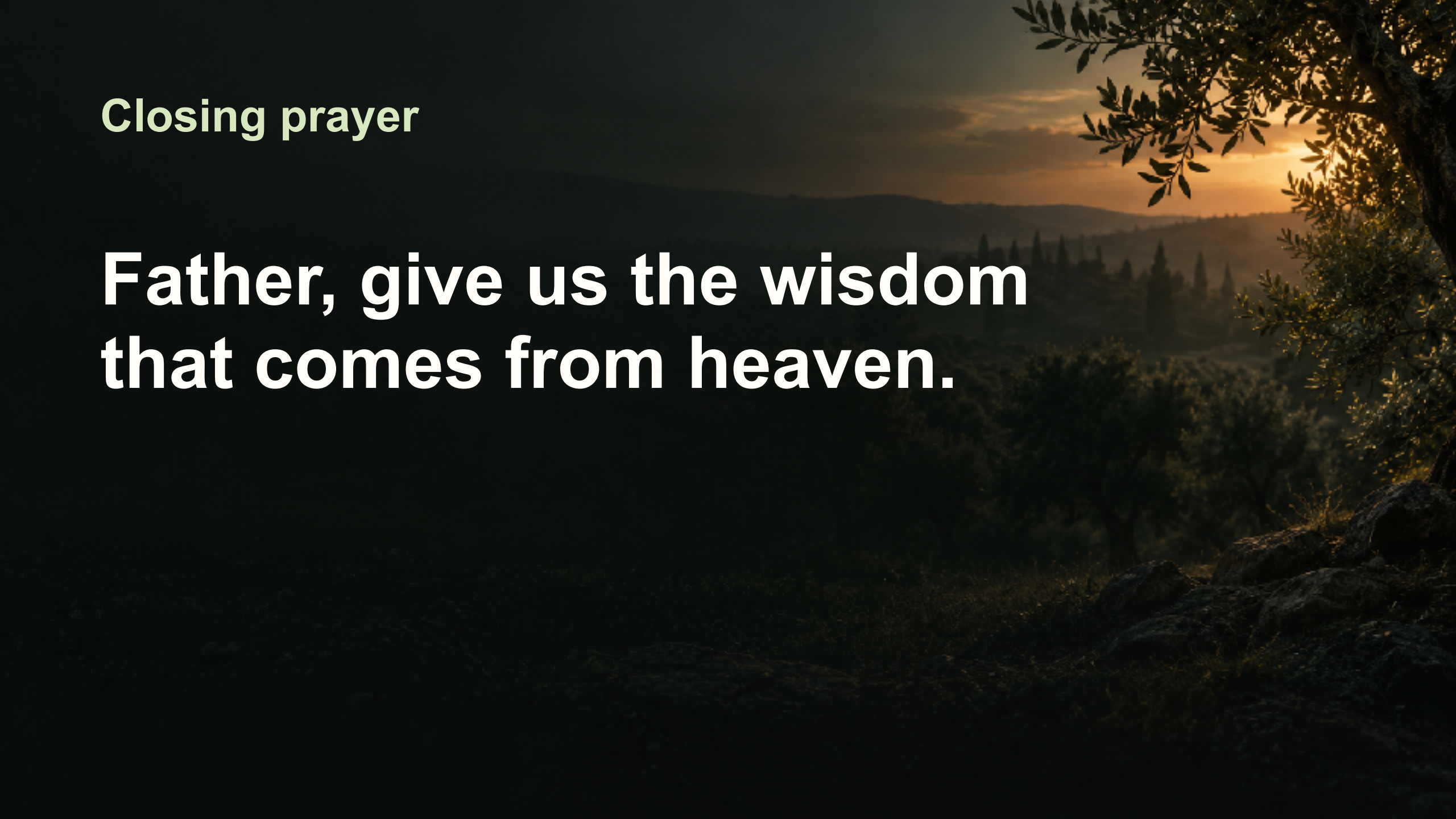




A step for this week

**One conversation.
One specific step.**

Wisdom is something you demonstrate.



Closing prayer

**Father, give us the wisdom
that comes from heaven.**