

DISCUSSION IDEAS
**WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING CHURCH
LEADERS**

James 3:13-18

May 22nd, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHOULD LEAD?**

When we are involved in choosing who to trust with the leadership of our group of believers, what criteria do we use?

What is one area that God want us to consider?

Look at James 3:1-12.

Why is verse 1 a warning?

How do verses 2-12 clarify this warning?

How could we say this in our own words?

What would be some "red flags" we might observe?

Think about this: when we talk, who is being glorified? Who do we talk about? What are the reasons behind what we say?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: ATTITUDES.**

As you read James 3:13-18, look for how God defines wisdom and understanding.

Discuss the contrasts between the attitudes in vv. 17-18 and the attitudes in vv. 14-16.

How deeply do our attitudes influence our actions?

How might a leader's attitudes bring blessings to others?

How might a leader's attitudes create problems for others?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE BOTTOM LINE.**

What kind of people does God want us to be?

How does the kind of leader we choose to follow influence that?

How are some ways we might be deceived?

Consider the possible leader's way of talking Is he or she fun to listen to? Do they get us charged up? Are those truly valid criteria?

What about physical appearance Might we be blinded by good looks? On the other hand, are good looks bad?

How can we be helped to see behind the surface impressions?

Back to vv. 17-18, what are we to look for in a possible leader?

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♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

What kind of person do I want to be like?

How do I get to be like the person in James 3:17-18?

Hint: Did I become a child of God by my own efforts to please Him?

What power is available to me to grow spiritually and emotionally?

Spend some time absorbing Ephesians 3:14-21.

Look at Philippians 2:1-13, concentrating on vv. 12-13.

In this context, what does it mean to "work out your salvation"?

(Note that "salvation" here does not refer to becoming saved from Hell.)

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Ask God to keep us focused on His priorities.

Ask Him to help us to have unshakable confidence in His faithfulness.

Ask Him to us sort out Truth from distorted teachings and feelings.

Ask Him to help us live out His agape LOVE, both for our fellow believers, and for those who reject or ignore Him.

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. It is a VERY hot season right now. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Thank God for Seth, who insisted on sharing his testimony openly and in person (not videotaped), even though he is very shy.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.