

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why is it unloving to show favoritism?
- When is it easy to show favoritism?
- Whom can you show more of Jesus' love to this week?



The Church Showed Favoritism

James 2:1-13

**MAIN POINT: JAMES CALLS US TO TREAT PEOPLE WITH MERCY
BECAUSE JESUS SHOWS US MERCY.**

James was a leader in the Jerusalem church. He wrote a letter to the Jewish believers who had moved to many different places. He told them the way believers should live. People who trust Jesus show that they really believe in Him by doing good and right things.

One important right thing, James taught, is to not show favoritism. That means we should treat everyone the same. No person is more important or less important than any other person.

James said, "Imagine you are meeting together and a man comes in wearing a gold ring and fancy clothes. Then a poor man in old, dirty clothes comes in, too. Is it right to pay attention to the man in fancy clothes and give him a chair to sit in, but say to the poor man 'Stand over there,' or 'Sit on the floor'? If you do this, you have treated one man better than the other."

James said that God does not show favoritism.

God taught us His law: Love your neighbor as yourself. Anyone who treats one person better than another person breaks God's law.

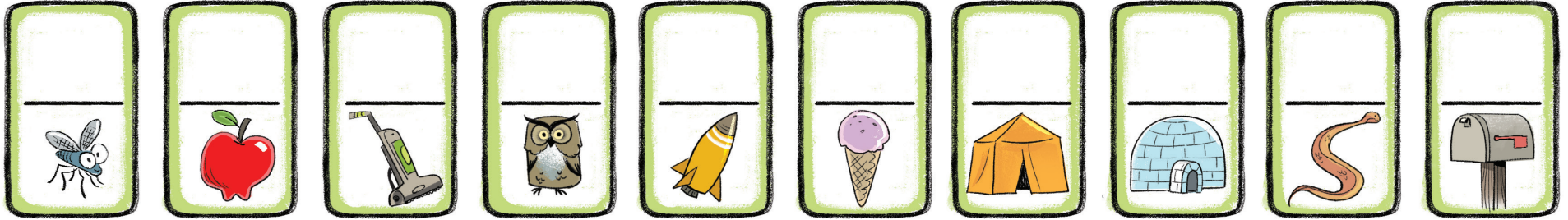
James told the believers to show mercy to others because they had been shown mercy. They were sinners, but God forgave their sins through His Son, Jesus.

Christ Connection: When believers in the early church treated some people as better than others, James told them they were wrong. He reminded them that Jesus commanded believers to love one another. Because He has shown great mercy to us, we can show mercy to others.

FOLD

Code Word

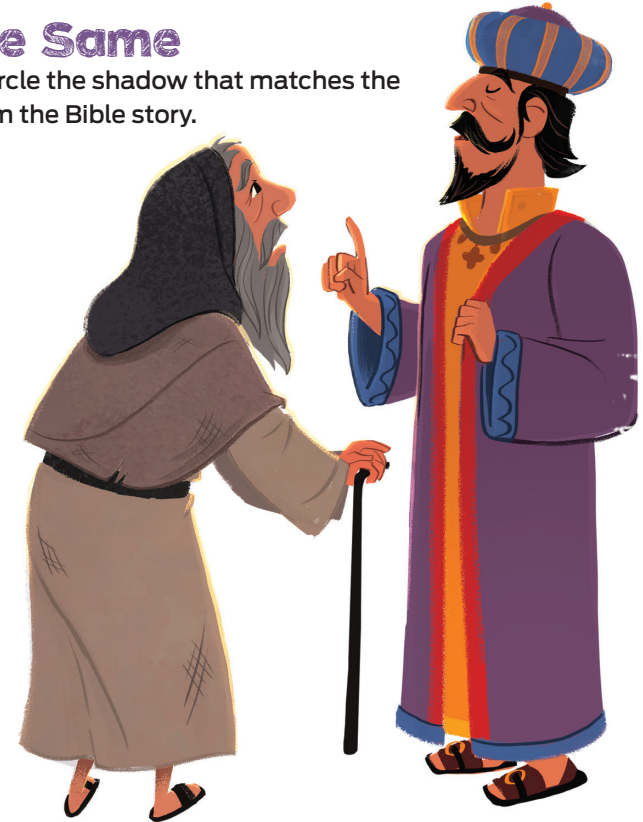
Write the first letter of each picture in the box above it. Then circle the correct definition for the code word.



- a. feeling of liking for everyone equally
- b. not favoring one side over another
- c. giving special treatment to a person or group

All the Same

Find and circle the shadow that matches the people from the Bible story.



Write today's main point here: _____
