

SHOULDA, WOULD, COULDA

Part 2

Key Scriptures: James 2:1-4; James 2:6-7; 1 Samuel 16:7; James 2:8-13; Romans 8:1

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- When members of your family need advice, what advice do they ask you for?
- What kind of advice do co-workers seek you out for?
- If you had only one person to seek advice from, who would it be?
- What sort of advice would you look to the Bible to provide?

1. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- The Bible indicates that we all have different gifts (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Corinthians 12:4; 1 Peter 4:10). Does this mean we all have different value to God?
- Does God have favoritism for one person over another?
- Where does the Bible show us that we are all valuable to God? (Here are some answers if your group has trouble finding any: Genesis 1:27; Galatians 3:26-29; 2 Peter 3:9)
- There are only two categories of people. One is filled with nearly everyone in the world: Lawbreakers. The other is populated by only one person: Jesus. I/YOU are not Jesus, so how does that impact you in light of scripture like Romans 8:1?

2. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you noticed that your life tends to be shaped by what you BELIEVE to be true? What truths define your view of yourself?
- What truths define your views of others?
- If we really BELIEVE that Jesus showed us the best way to live . . . If we really BELIEVE that Jesus taught us the best way to live . . . Then we would follow the teachings and the example of Jesus.
- instead of discriminating against people, judging people, and showing favoritism to people, God is calling us to love and show mercy to people. why?

3. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray that you see people the way God sees people. (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Pray that you treat people the way God treats people.
- **Pray that you show love, just like God loves you.**
- **Pray that you forgive others, the way God shows mercy to us.**

4. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Express to someone this week LOVE, MERCY, GRACE, and FORGIVENESS.
- Then explain that it is how God sees them. They're LOVED, FORGIVEN, and VALUABLE.
- Repeat!