

Coloring Page



**James made a fair and just
and good decision.**



Parents Initials:

PK1

The Character of God's People

- Lesson Two -

Just - Unbiased and Fair Seen in the Life of James

I. Overview.

In this lesson we will look at how the Apostle James demonstrated the good character trait of being just. To be just means to be unbiased and fair. It means to handle all matters fairly, not favoring any person. It means to look at a matter from all angles and to listen to each viewpoint.



*James considered
both sides carefully.*

James, the flesh brother of the Lord Jesus was a leading elder in the church in Jerusalem. In this lesson we see how a problem was brought to him. We see how he listened carefully and made a fair and just judgment. His judgment was based on the feeling of the Holy Spirit sensed by all the brothers. James was not quick to speak his own thoughts, but rather waited until all the brothers had spoken. Then he considered all the angles and made a fair and just decision.

II. Memory Verse.

“My brothers, do not hold the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ of glory with respect of persons”.

(James 2:1)

III. Lesson.

In the early days of the churches, a problem arose between some brothers from the church in Jerusalem and other brothers from the church in Antioch. The saints in the church in Jerusalem were all Jews. The saints in the church in Antioch were mostly Gentiles, people from nations other than Israel. The Jews had many religious traditions that came from Judaism and the teaching of Moses. Even though they were now Christians and should have left these traditions behind, some of them still loved their heritage and did not understand that it should not be applied in the church.



*To be just means
to be unbiased and fair.*

A Problem in Antioch

Some of these Jewish brothers from the church in Jerusalem went to Antioch to visit the church there. When they were there they began to teach that unless the Gentiles kept some of the traditions of the Jews, they could not be saved. This upset the Gentile believers in Antioch. It was decided to send some brothers from Antioch back with the brothers from Jerusalem so that the apostles and elders in Jerusalem could decide the matter.

James Listened Carefully and Judges Fairly

James listened carefully as the brothers gave their story. Some of the Jewish believers insisted that the Gentiles keep the traditions and the law of Moses. The Gentiles told how God had saved them without their practicing the Jewish traditions. Peter spoke about his experience in God's first move to save

some among the Gentiles. Eventually James, having listened carefully made a fair decision that the Gentile believers would not be required to keep the traditions of the Jews. He spoke from the Bible, showing how God said that the Gentiles would turn to God. James made a just decision. He was a Jewish believer himself, and could have favored the Jewish brothers, but he did not let that affect his decision. Rather he made a good and fair and just decision, having listened carefully to all sides and being open to the feeling of the Holy Spirit. Everyone who was there was happy and there was a wonderful feeling of oneness and rejoicing among the brothers.

— Questions for Discussion —

1. What does it mean for us to be just?

2. Briefly describe the problem that occurred between the brothers from Jerusalem and the brothers in Antioch.

3. How did James make his decision?

4. Did James favor the brothers from Jerusalem?

