

Warmings & Wisdom

JAMES 4-5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK ONE

WHAT CAUSES QUARRELS?

James 4:1-3

SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about ungodly desires that you can apply to your life this week?

BIBLE STUDY

1. What does James say is the cause of our quarrels and fights? What does he mean by "our passions are at war within us"?
2. How can we know when our desires are godly or ungodly?
3. How does this passage speak into the areas of blame and our emotions? What can it teach someone who blames others for causing them to get angry?
4. In verses 2-3, James talks about asking wrongly. What should Christians watch for in the things we ask?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on a time when an ungodly desire was at work in your life. How did you respond to that desire? How should you have responded differently, based on this passage?
2. How can you practically assess whether a desire is healthy or not?
3. How should this passage affect your prayer life and the things you desire?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Use the questions below from the Sunday Field Guide from Children's Ministries to help you engage your children in this week's sermon. For additional questions and direction on discipling your kids this week, check out the full [Sunday Field Guide](#).

- Think of a recent fight or argument you had. What did you want that you were not receiving? Was what you wanted a bad thing? At what point did your desire turn into sin?
- How can prayer help us fight wanting things more than we want to love others?
- What kinds of things should you be asking for in prayer? Pray as a family for some things you know God wants.

APPLICATION

Evaluate some of the desires you've had over the last year. How did you respond when those desires weren't met? As you consider your reactions, and our calling to love God and love people, pray for God's help in reshaping your desires.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*With All Your Heart*](#)

Book: [*Uprooting Anger*](#)

Article: "[Are You Addicted to Outrage?](#)"

Article: "[4 Magic Words for Your Next Argument](#)"

Article: "[Desire: Friend of the Devil, Grace from God](#)"

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WEEK TWO

GRACE TO THE HUMBLE

James 4:4-6

SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about humility that you can apply to your life this week?

BIBLE STUDY

1. What does James mean by "friendship with the world"? Why does James refer to this as adulterous?
2. What does it mean that God "yearns jealously" for us? How does this jealousy differ from how we typically define jealousy?
3. How does this passage speak into the areas of blame and our emotions? What can it teach someone who blames others for causing them to get angry?
4. Grace, humility, and pride are common terms in Christian circles but their definitions are often assumed. How does the Bible define grace, humility, and pride (See: Eph. 4:7, Phil. 2:3; 1 Cor. 4:7)?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen your faith in God be at war with worldly temptations? How do you guard against falling prey to "friendship with the world"?
2. The world often views humility as a weakness. Why do you think that is? How is humility viewed differently in the kingdom of God?
3. Describe a time in your Christian walk when humility led to God's grace.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

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- How does coveting reveal our pride? Whose needs are we most concerned about when we covet?
- What does it look like to humble ourselves, even when we want something really badly? How can God help us?

- If humility means serving others instead of taking, how will a truly humble person look different than the world around them? How can we learn from Jesus's example of humility in Philippians 2:5-11?

APPLICATION

List ways in which you'd like to grow in humility and overcome pride. Consider asking a godly friend, family member, or mentor: "in which areas of my life can I grow in humility?" Pray that you will be able to see your need for growth without becoming hopeless. Pray that your hope will be rooted in Christ alone and that you will gain victory in these areas.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*The Blessing of Humility*](#)

Book: [*Leadership as an Identity: The Four Traits of Those Who Wield Lasting Influence*](#)

Article: "[3 Things Biblical Humility Is \(And Isn't\)](#)"

Article: "[7 Ways Pride Grows in Our Hearts](#)"

Message: [Think Hard, Stay Humble: The Life of the Mind and the Peril of Pride](#)

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JAMES 4-5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK THREE

DRAW NEAR TO GOD

James 4:7-10

SERMON REFLECTION

1. Describe one of your main takeaways from this Sunday's sermon.
2. What did you learn about resisting the devil that you can apply to your life this week?

BIBLE STUDY

1. What does James mean by "resist the devil"? How does submitting to God play a role in resisting the devil?
2. In verses 8-9, how does James describe the experience of someone who is sorrowful over their sin?
3. How can a Christian be humbled and exalted at the same time?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. In which areas of your life do you find it the hardest to submit to God? Why?
2. How does the truth that the devil flees from those who "submit and resist" encourage you?
3. How can we practice drawing near to God? How do you personally draw near to God most often?
4. How does drawing near to God result in godly sorrow for our sin? What has this brokenness looked like in your life?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

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- List the examples these verses give of what it looks like to be humble (see James 4:6). What do they all have in common?
- Does verse 9 mean we should never laugh? When is it appropriate to mourn like verse 9 describes?
- What types of people and actions does the world tend to elevate? How is this different than the kind of person God elevates?

APPLICATION

Examine your heart for any lies you've believed instead of submitting to God. As you reflect on those lies, humble yourself and pray to the Lord. Use Psalm 51 as a guide for a prayer of repentance and confession.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*Created to Draw Near*](#)

Book: [*The Grace of Repentance*](#)

Article: [“Cultivating Humility”](#)

Article: [“We Should Be Weeping”](#)

Message: [“Draw Near”](#)