

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

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](#).

- 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”](#)

Warmings & Wisdom

JAMES 4-5

WEEK FOUR

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!

James 4:11-17

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. What is the relationship between speaking evil and judging others?
2. What does James mean when he says our lives are like a mist or vapor (v. 14)?
3. What does the phrase "you boast in your arrogance" mean (v. 16)?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What does knowing that God is the ultimate judge of all things change the way you think about other people's sin?
2. How would the way you treat others change if you were to live out verses 11-12 more fully?
3. Based on verses 13-15, what posture should you have towards your plans for the future?
4. What significance does verse 17 have for you personally?

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 about times when you have been mad at a sibling or friend. Have you ever done the same thing you were mad at them about? How should we respond to this?
- Why is it prideful to assume we know what will happen tomorrow?
- How has this past year shown us the truth of this passage? In what ways has this made you more thankful that God is in control?

APPLICATION

This week, look for ways you have tried to take control of things that only God should be in control of. Specifically, look for how you have placed yourself in the position of judge over others and ways you have relied on your will over God's will. Then, surrender these areas to God in prayer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Podcast: "[Finding Hope in God's Unfolding Plan](#)"

Book: *[Resisting Gossip: Winning the War of the Wagging Tongue](#)*

Article: "[Is God Fair to Judge Us?](#)"

Article: "[Fear Not, Your Future Is Secure](#)"

Article: "[Planning for the Future While Trusting God's Providence](#)"

Warnings & Wisdom

JAMES 4-5

WEEK FIVE

THE DANGER OF BEING RICH

James 5:1-6

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. According to James 5:1-6 and Matthew 6:19-21, what is the difference between earthly and eternal wealth?
2. What significance does it have that God is referred to as the "Lord of hosts" in verse 4?
3. According to James 5:5-6, what is the end for those who have lived a life of self-indulgence?
4. How does this passage relate to James 1:26-27?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you think the warning James gives in this passage applies to you? Why or why not?
2. Instead of using the resources and finances God has given us to hoard and indulge, how can we use them to give back to God and others?
3. How might your monthly budget need to change based on this passage?

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](#).

- Is this passage about all rich people? How do we know (see verse 4)?
- What type of rich person does this passage describe? What will happen to them in the end?
- How can we avoid becoming like these people? What are some actions we can take instead?

APPLICATION

The next time you work on your budget, read through this passage and think about how it should affect your spending, saving, and giving. Consider how you may have been stingy with the finances God has blessed you with. Read through Matthew 6:19-24 and ask God how he wants you to store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*Never Enough? 3 Keys to Financial Contentment*](#)

Book: [*The Treasure Principle*](#)

Article: "[Faithful Stewardship Amidst Economic Uncertainty](#)"

Article: "[How to Pray About Your Finances](#)"

Article: "[Does God Prefer Us to Be Rich or Poor?](#)"

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JAMES 4-5

WEEK SIX

PATIENCE IN SUFFERING

James 5:7-8

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. What is the relationship between us waiting on the Lord and the farmer waiting for the rain?
2. What lessons does James want us to learn from his description of the farmer?
3. What does James mean by the phrase "Establish your hearts"?
4. What does James mean when he says the "coming of the Lord is at hand"?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. In what areas of your life do you find it difficult to be patient?
2. What can these verses teach us about resting?
3. How should the timing of Christ's return impact our ability to be patient?

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](#).

- What will happen to God's people when Jesus comes again? What about people who have not trusted in Jesus?
- When someone is mean to you, how are you tempted to respond?
- In these situations, why is it helpful to remember that Jesus will come again? How should this change your response?

APPLICATION

List areas of your life in which you need to practice more patience. Consider how Christ's return should impact those areas. Keep your list with you this week and pray over it daily.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*Waiting On God: Returning to the Place of Absolute Dependence*](#)

Book: [*Chasing Contentment: Trusting God in a Discontented Age*](#)

Article: "[Christ Will Come Again](#)"

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JAMES 4-5

WEEK SEVEN

CAREFUL WORDS IN THE CRUCIBLE

James 5:9-12

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. How does grumbling relate to suffering?
2. How does James 4:11-12 inform the way we read James 5:9?
3. In verses 10-11, James refers to prophets who remained steadfast in suffering. Which prophets might he be referring to?
4. Read Matthew 5:34-37 and James 5:12. What do these two passages teach us?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some things you are quick to grumble about? How would practicing patience change these situations?
2. What lessons can we learn about grumbling and patience from Job and the prophets?
3. James tells us that "the Lord is compassionate and merciful" (v. 11). Why should this encourage us to remain steadfast in suffering?

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](#).

- Why is it so easy to grumble? Do you ever grumble? When?
- What makes Job a great example of patience? ?
- When you are tempted to sin, is it helpful to remember Jesus could come back soon? Why or why not?
- Why is it important that we only speak truth?

APPLICATION

Ask someone close to you whether you are quick to grumble or not, and ask them what you most often grumble about. Ask them to pray with you that God will help turn your grumbling into patience.

If you are currently experiencing suffering, consider reading the free book [The Misery of Job and the Mercy of God](#) by John Piper.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [The Power of Words and the Wonder of God](#)

Book: [The Misery of Job and the Mercy of God](#)

Article: "[When You Have Need of Endurance](#)"

Article: "[10 Key Bible Verses on Endurance](#)"

Article: "[How to Suffer Well: Three Ways to Prepare Now](#)"

Warnings & Wisdom

JAMES 4-5

WEEK EIGHT

FAITHFUL PRAYERS IN EVERY SEASON

James 5:13-18

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. According to this passage, what is the relationship between prayer and suffering?
2. In verse 16, why does James say "The prayer of a righteous person has great power"? Does the power of prayer change based on the person praying?
3. According to verses 19 and 20, how should we respond when we see a brother or sister struggling in sin?
4. According to this passage, in what situations should we pray?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a prayer of faith and one that lacks faith?
2. What areas of your life do you rarely talk to God about? How can you change that?
3. What can we learn from people who are excellent at maintaining their relationship with God through prayer?
4. If you know people who are struggling and wandering from the truth, how can you help bring them back to the truth?

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](#).

- What types of prayer does James refer to?
- In verses 14-15, does the prayer or the oil heal the sick person? How do you know?
- Have you ever confessed your sins to someone else? Why or why not?
- If you are a Christian, are you your brother's keeper? What responsibility do we have to other believers?

APPLICATION

Write out the questions included in verse 13 and list people you know who fit in each category. Pray for the people on your list throughout the week.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*The Power of Prayer*](#)

Book: [*The Possibility of Prayer*](#)

Article: "[How to Cry Out to God](#)"

Article: "[Is There Proof of the Power of Prayer?](#)"

Article: "[How to Suffer Well: Three Ways to Prepare Now](#)"

Warmings & Wisdom

JAMES 4-5

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK NINE

OVERVIEW OF JAMES

James 5:19-20

SERMON REFLECTION

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

BIBLE STUDY

1. How does the book of James continue with the main theme of Scripture? What does the book of James contribute to the rest of Scripture?
2. In light of James 5:19-20, how can we help fellow believers as they pursue Christ? Now, read James 2:17-18 and Romans 3:28. How do these two passages work together to inform our theology of salvation?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Based on our study of James, what do you think was James's intention in writing this letter?
2. What part of James did you find most encouraging?
3. What are the key pieces of wisdom that you gained during this series that you have applied to your life?
4. James 1:22 tells us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only." What are some ways that you can "do" the Word of God?

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](#).

- Read the entire book of James out loud together.
- What are the main ideas that James keeps coming back to?
- If someone asked you what James is about, what would you say? Can you summarize the book in one sentence?
- What is your favorite passage?
- How have you seen God use James in your life since we began studying it together?

APPLICATION

Read the book of James out loud alone or with someone else. This will take about twelve minutes. Then ask yourself what God wants to communicate to you through the book of James.

Find two or three application verses and underline them or record them in a journal. Journal about how you will apply these verses in your life.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Book: [*James For You*](#)

Book: [*Be Mature \(James\)*](#)

Article: "[Don't Underestimate the New Testament's Earliest Letter](#)"

Article: "[Do Paul and James Disagree on Justification by Faith Alone?](#)"

Online Courses: [James](#)