

STUDYING THE BOOK OF JAMES
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 7 - Submit Yourselves to God - James 4:1-12

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

JAS 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

JAS 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

JAS 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

JAS 4:11 Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. [12] There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 7 - Submit Yourselves to God - James 4:1-12

67. What are the battles going on inside a person? (4:1-2)
68. What is the root cause of fights and quarrels between people? (4:1-3)
69. Why don't people have what they want? (4:2)

70. Why doesn't God give some people what they ask for? (4:3)
71. What does friendship with the world do to our relationship with God? (4:4)
72. Whom does God oppose and favor? (4:6)
73. When does God give us grace? (4:6)
74. How did James describe the way we should come to God? (4:7-10)
75. How does the devil react when a person resists him? (4:7)
76. What does God do to us when we have an attitude of humility before Him? (4:10)
77. How are we to speak to one another? (4:11)
78. When we speak against a fellow believer, what attitude are we having toward God and His law? (4:11-12)

Lesson 8 - Boasting About Tomorrow - James 4:13-17

JAS 4:13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." [14] Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. [15] Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." [16] As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. [17] Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 8 - Boasting About Tomorrow - James 4:13-17

79. Whose attention did James want to get? (4:13)
80. What warning did James give to those who make plans for the future? (4:13-14)
81. What could happen to destroy even the best laid plans? (4:14)
82. To what did James compare our lives? (4:14)
83. What is the best way to plan ahead? (4:15)
84. What should we say when we are making plans? (4:15)
85. What outlook toward the future does God want us to change? (4:16)

86. What sinful attitudes often accompany the act of making plans? (4:16)

87. How did James define sin? (4:17)

88. How do we sin? (4:17)