



LEADER'S GUIDE – March 10

ICEBREAKER: Today, James is going to talk about the fights and quarrels we get into with others. Each of us has had someone close to us (spouse, sibling, parent, friend) where we had a fight that quickly after things calmed down, we laughed and said, “That was silly.” If appropriate, share one of your humorous fights/quarrels with the group.

PRIMARY PASSAGE

James 4:1-12: What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ²You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁴You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

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.

¹¹ Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them 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?

1.) Read vv.1-5. What did James say in these verses that stood out to you? What is the common attitude that causes trouble in both our relationships with people and with God? James describes how our impure heart causes trouble in two relationships: With people and with God. The trouble in each of these is our heart of entitlement. A focus on “what do I want,” opposed to what does God want. With people, we often feel entitled to something and when we do not receive it, we get lash out. Often, this shows itself when we look to people to fill us up with what only God can (recognition, respect, validation, etc.). With God, we often ask things with impure motives. We ask for things for our own gain or selfish desires, not with a mentality of “What does God want.”

2.) What are some examples today of how an entitled spirit may cause quarrels with others? (If you feel comfortable, feel free to share from your personal experience)

3.) What are some examples of asking God for something with a wrong motive? (If you feel comfortable, feel free to share from your personal experience)

4.) Read vv. 6-10. What are some of the action steps that James gives to combat an entitled spirit? In this passage, we see James encourage us to reflect on God’s grace, submit to God’s plan not our own, resist the devil, and draw near to God through repentance. NOTE FOR LEADER: You may need to clarify v.8b. We do not have to clean our life up before we can come to God. We come to God with an intention to allow him to clean our life up. **What is the common attitude seen in these passages?** The overarching attitude is one of humility. Wanting things God’s way, not your own.

5.) How would you describe humility? Philippians 2:1-11 is a great passage that explains how Christ displayed humility. If time permits, this is a great passage to read over as a model for humility. A great quote by C.S. Lewis is “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.” Another quote is from C.J. Mahaney, “Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.” **How do you think that we personally can obtain humility?** Humility has been described as the “ever-elusive” quality of God, because the moment you think that you have obtained it, you lose it. If you aim at humility, you will miss it every time. Humility does not come from a smaller picture of yourself, but a bigger picture of God. As we focus on the goodness of God or the evidences of his grace in our life (v. 6), it will move us to a humble posture. As we focus on the holiness of God the byproduct is humility.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

- **Where is a place in your life where you have an entitled expectation with others or an entitled motive in your relationship with God?**
- **For 2019, what habits can you put in place to focus more on God’s goodness and grace (v.6)? (Reading The Bible, Increased Prayer, Community Group, D-Group, etc.)**

BONUS:

- **Create a list based off two questions: What are evidences of God’s grace in my life? What gifts has God given me that I am thankful for?**
- **Read C.J. Mahaney’s book, *Humility*.**

