

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

A New Heart for the New Year | James 4:1-10
FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Problem: We desire the wrong things. James 4:1-6
2. The Solution: Desiring to Please God more than anything else. James 4:7-10

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Looking back at the passage and your notes, is there anything that encouraged, challenged, or confused you?
2. What happened to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3? Why does this mean we need a new heart? How does that relate to Ephesians 2:3 and Romans 8:8?
3. How do our actions, circumstances, and desires all relate to one another? If I change my actions how does that affect my desires? How does changing my desires affect my actions?
4. How can you identify whether a desire has taken the place of God and become an idol? What are some questions you can ask yourself to help determine that? Try to think of more questions besides the ones given in the message.
5. What can we as a small group do to not just minister to each other on a surface level, but go deeper to our desires and beliefs?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. Are there any desires you're tempted to put ahead of pleasing God in your heart? What sort of fruit do those desires produce? What can you do about it?
2. Do you have any spiritual goals for 2022? If so, share them with the group. If not, what's one specific way you'd like to grow this year?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray that God would use our church in 2022 to reach the lost and grow together in Christ.
2. Ask God for forgiveness for the different things you've desired above pleasing Him. Ask him to help you want to glorify Him more than anything else.
3. Praise God that while we were yet sinners who not only did sinful things but had sinful desires, he sent His Son to die for us, so that we could have new hearts.