

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

THE BOOK OF JAMES
THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM | JAMES 4:1-12
FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Root #1: Controlling passions. James 4:1-3
2. Root #2: Compromised relationships. James 4:4-5
3. Solution: Submit to God in humility. James 4:6-12

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Looking back at the passage and your notes, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Check for understanding: What does James mean in 4:5 when he says "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? What sort of jealousy is he talking about?
3. According to v3 what sorts of things get in the way of getting our desires? What other things get in the way of obtaining the desires of our heart or prevent our prayers being answered with a "yes" that we ought to be on the lookout for?
4. How can we tell whether or not God is far off? Quote scripture to support your answer. We know from v8 that we are to draw near to Him especially in those times when He seems far, but how do we do that? Why is it that when God feels far off oftentimes we naturally find it hard to draw near to Him?
5. We all have passions within us that turn into idols or felt needs. Pastor Dave mentioned gratitude as one way to help control those passions. What else can we do to control or help put those desires in the right place in our hearts?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. Which desires of your heart lead you to anger, complaining, despair, or other negative actions at work, at home, in relationships, etc.
2. Who is investing in you, and who are you investing in? Would you consider those worldly relationships? Why or why not?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God that when we humble ourselves before Him we can be free from enslavement to deceitful desires.
2. Pray for God to transform his church to be characterized by love, peace, and unity rather than disagreement and infighting.
3. Ask God to reveal in us any way we treasure idols above God himself.