



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 12 Nov 2023



James 4:1-10 The Problem of the Heart


Warm Up

Children will always find a reason to argue; at home or in the playground. Sometimes adults are no better. Recall and share a story of a childhood argument that you had. What really caused it?

Background and context

This Remembrance Day is particularly significant as in the world there are several major conflicts, not least in the Middle East and in Ukraine. We do not appear to have grown out of our need to control, have power over, or conquer other nations or people. We continue to pray for peace yet we rarely get it. Is God ignoring our prayers? Or is there an issue with us as humans that needs to ultimately be resolved? James 4: 1-10 goes straight to the point and tells us how to tackle the issue of the heart.


Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity




Read James 4:1-10 What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. **Read v1-3.** What causes disagreements, violence and wars? How might this link with Exodus 20:17?
2. **Read v 4.** What does James mean when he calls the readers "adulterous people"?
3. What does James mean by "friendship with the world"?
4. What is so dangerous about "friendship with the world"?
5. What are some of the things the "world" values that are in fact dangerous for our soul?
6. **Read v 5-6.** What is James revealing about God when he writes this verse and quotes a scripture?
7. Why should this give us hope?
8. **Read v 7-10.** How many commands are there in this section? What do they reveal about how we should respond to the problem of our damaged hearts?
9. **V 9** seems odd. Turning laughter to mourning. Given the context of the passage, what act is James talking about? V 10 should help you.

Growing in discipleship: Practical application

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10. Are there things in our lives for which we need to repent? That make us friends with the world? Prayerfully bring these before God.

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.