

Life Group Discussion Guide

The Book of James

January 24

LEADER NOTES

This week as we continue our series in the Book of James, Pastor David Grigg walked through chapter 4, which centers around conflict in the church. The problem? Pride. The solution? Humility. How would our relationships with God and others be different if we learned to walk in humility?

Remember to check out the videos from our teaching team each week at alcpnw.com/life-group-notes. These videos include extra content from each week's teacher and a great prompt for your group discussion.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

James 4:1-12 (NIV)

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? ²You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. ³And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

⁴You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. ⁵Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. ⁶And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say,

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

⁷So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. ⁹Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

¹¹Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. ¹²God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?

James 4:17

Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

LOOK UP

What does it mean to you that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."?

LOOK AROUND

What are some examples from your life where there is a clear distinction between the ways of the world and the ways of Jesus?

In which relationships do you find it easiest to own up to your mistakes and shortcomings? In which relationships is it the most difficult?

LOOK AHEAD

Verses 7-8 of this week's text states that resisting the devil and drawing close to God are incredibly important as we strive to walk in humility.

What does it look like, practically, to resist the devil (try to focus on things you can intentionally do rather than just things you shouldn't do)?

What does it look like, practically to draw close to God?

PRAYER