



COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Mirrors: The Book of James - Part 6

Why We Fight

LEADER REMINDER: Pray for Mission Team going to Eastern Europe. As a church we need to be in prayer for God's blessing and grace over each of our short term trips. The specific prayer points are at the bottom of the study guide.

INTRODUCTION

LEADER NOTES: *This is simply a guide to help discussion about the Scripture that was preached over the weekend. You are not bound to it. Ultimately, you know your group best and if God redirects your group's time away from the Community Group Guide that is great. Please do not abandon a fruitful conversation for the sake of getting all the questions answered.*

This weekend we looked at the beginning of the fourth chapter of James. James gives his audience a sobering warning about their worldliness. They are pridefully fighting with one another, and James shows them what is really going on in their hearts. They are quarreling with one another because their hearts are pridefully loving the world instead of humbly serving God. James is holding up the mirror and reminding them who they are as Christians.

BIBLE STUDY

LEADER NOTES: *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

A good way to study the Bible is by using three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We want to observe the passage first to get an idea of what is happening. Then we interpret the meaning of the passage so that we can apply it to our lives. The following questions will follow this pattern as we look through this Biblical passage.

Scripture: Read James 4:1-12

Observation

1. What are the main problems that James is addressing in this passage?
 - a. Fights among the believers, worldly thinking, pride, and judgement.

2. What is the ultimate problem that James points to that causes all the other quarrels and worldliness?
 - a. "Your passions are at war within you." Your flesh is warring against the Spirit of God.

Interpretation

1. Why are God and the world so opposed? How does this affect us as Christians?
 - a. The world is ruled by the devil and is filled with evil and sin, which is rebellion against God. God, on the other hand, is holy and righteous.
 - b. Man cannot choose both. We must love one and hate the other. James simply saying that if you are choosing the world, you are opposing God.

2. Why is God jealous for the spirit in us?
 - a. God is not just a ruler who wants His subjects to obey Him. He sees the Church as His bride. He has a love for Christians that surpasses all knowledge. Because of this great love, He is jealous when we commit adultery by loving the world.

3. Why is God so opposed to the proud and give grace to the humble?
 - a. Proud people look to themselves for strength. They think they know what is best so they do not rely on God.
 - b. The humble recognize that they are weak and need God. It is only when we realize this that He gives us the strength that we need through His grace.

4. How do we ultimately reconcile with others who we quarrel with?
 - a. We reconcile to God. Our relationship with God affects our relationship with everyone else.

Application

1. How can we protect ourselves from pride and pursue humility?
 - a. The first thing is to realize that your flesh is at war with the Spirit (James 4:1) and pray for God to “search your heart” (Psalm 139:23) to see if you are in sin.
 - b. Ask God to remind you of the Gospel and the fact that we were all once dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). Once we realize that we can do nothing without God’s grace, we can walk in humility.

2. In what ways can you reflect the Gospel in the midst of dealing with conflict?
 - a. There are many different ways to reflect the Gospel but some might be: Speak in love, act kindly, extend grace and forgiveness, pursue reconciliation at all costs.

Homework: Decide one action step you will take from this discussion.

PRAYER

Pray for Mission Team going to Eastern Europe. As a church we need to be in prayer for God’s blessing and grace over each of our short term trips. The Church in the book of Acts is continually praying for the Gospel to go forth from them. It should be the same with us today!

3 things to pray:

1. For evangelistic effectiveness.
2. That we will be an encouragement for local church planters there.
3. That we will get a vision for future church planting work among the unreached people groups there.