



Sermon Study Guide

Humility – James 4:1-10

April 2 & 3, 2016

Read Together

Read **James 4:1-10** as a group.

Big Question

What causes people to act crazy like this?

Discussion Questions

1. According to verse 1, where do fights and quarrels come from?
2. What do verses 2–3 tell us about the spiritual life of James' audience? When they did ask God for things, what do you think they were asking for?
3. How does friendship with the world make us an enemy with God? Why was James so vociferous in condemning this? Read Luke 16:10, and discuss what Jesus adds to this discussion.
4. So just when we're lined up for a smackdown from our holy God, what do we get in verse 6?
5. What is our best response to this? How can we access God's grace?
6. How do you normally connect with God? How were you challenged to deepen that connection?
7. How can we "cleanse our hands" and "purify our hearts"? Why should we turn "joy to gloom"? Is it wrong to be joyful?
8. What was God saying to you when you listened in prayer to Him at the end of the service? If you responded to the call to go up and wash your hands, how has God used that in your life this week?
9. Read Verse 10. How will God "exalt" us?

Challenges

Humble Prayer

In biblical times they wore rough sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on themselves to come humbly before God. What could you do to show God (and remind yourself of) your humility? Kneel? Wear a dirty shirt? Put soil on your face? The specifics don't matter as much as your attitude. Take a good long time to listen to God. Ask about the things He cares about. Ask what He wants for you. Confess your sins and receive His forgiveness. Ask again for wisdom.

Memorization

Learn James 4:7–8.

Peacemaking

Are there "fights and quarrels" in your life? If you're not seeing eye to eye with someone, do what you can to set that relationship right.

Service

Find a humble way to serve your church or community. Clean up, fix up, help those who routinely get neglected. This is not about you getting props for a good deed, but about showing the love of God to others.