

What do you call 2 things completely different from each other? (opposites)

Let's play a game. I'll say a word and you tell me the opposite.

- hot/cold
- wet/dry
- large/small
- short/tall
- boring/exciting
- dull/bright
- dead/alive
- dark/light

We learn opposites to help us to fully understand a word. Would you completely understand hot if you didn't also know cold? Can you call something tall if you don't have something short to compare it to? A tall person is a different height than a tall tree.

Our #TargetPractice today is from James 4:7. We are also going to look at the first part of verse 8.

#TargetPractice: _____ to God. _____ the devil, and he will _____ from you.

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

Can you fill in the blanks? (submit, resist, flee)

Do you see any opposites in these verses? (submit/resist)

- What does it mean to submit? What would it look like to submit to God?
 - Pray for guidance/wisdom
 - read the Bible/learn more about God
 - ask for God's forgiveness
 - show love to others.
- What does it mean to resist? What would it look like to resist the devil/temptation?
 - Say nothing in response to someone's hurtful words
 - Tell the truth even when you might get in trouble
 - Stand up for the kid getting bullied, even if you might get made fun of
 - Stay away from the movies/music/books/video games that have inappropriate content

What are some other opposites in the verses? (flee/draw near)

Have a small bowl of water.

- The water represents the world we live in. When Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, what happened? Sin entered the world. It was no longer perfect and full of good. This pepper represents sin/Satan entering the world. What are some of the temptations/sins this could represent? (jealousy, hurting one another, tearing someone down with our words, bullying, lying, stealing, bad attitudes, disobeying, ...)
 - *Put some black pepper (labeled devil) in the water to cover the surface.*

- My finger represents myself in the world (water).
 - *Place your finger into the water.*
- What happens? (the pepper surrounds and gets on finger) It's like us in the world. If we are trying to live in this world on our own (without God) it is hard to stay away from the sin/temptations. In fact, it comes closer.
- Now let's try this again. This time, I am going to submit to God. I'm going to ask Him to forgive me for all the wrong I have done and to help me resist the devil/temptations around me.
 - *Dip finger in dish soap labeled 'God'.*
- Now I'm going to be in the world while submitting to God.
 - *Place finger with dish soap into the bowl with pepper.*
- What happens? (The pepper moved away from the soap.) When we have God in our lives and follow Him, the devil/temptation will flee!

Now let's read these verses again and let's think about our demonstration to better understand it.

"Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." James 4:7-8a

How can we draw near to God? (submit to Him, follow Him, trust Him)

Why do we need to draw near to God? (He will draw near to us and the devil will flee)

Why do we want to resist the devil?

Pray