

# THE BOOK OF JAMES

## STUDY SIX - JAMES 4:1-10

1) Think of a minor everyday situation where you and people around you tend to compete for control - at home, at work, in traffic. What does that reveal about us?

### **Read James 4:1-6**

2) James traces the root of conflict not to circumstances or other people, but to desires "that battle within you." How does that diagnosis challenge the way we normally think about conflict in our relationships?

3) In verses 2-3, James says we either don't ask God at all, or we ask with wrong motives. What do you think is the difference between prayer that seeks God's kingdom and prayer that is really just requesting God to serve our own agenda?

4) James uses the striking language of adultery in verse 4 to describe friendship with the world. Why do you think he uses such strong language? What does it tell us about the seriousness of divided loyalty?

5) Verses 5-6 form a turning point. God "jealously longs" for us and responds to our unfaithfulness with more grace. What does this tell us about God's character? How does that shape the way you feel about coming to him after you've drifted?

## Read James 4:7-10

6) James lists a series of commands in verses 7-10 — submit, resist, draw near, grieve, humble yourselves etc. What would you say is the single underlying posture James is calling us to, and what does that actually look like in daily life?

7) Verse 9 calls for genuine grief over sin rather than treating it lightly. What gets in the way of taking our sin seriously without falling into either shame or indifference?

8) The passage ends with a promise: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (v.10). Where in your life right now do you need to loosen your grip on control and trust that promise?

9) If you and/or group were to identify one area where God is being pushed off the throne in favour of control, comfort, approval, or self-sufficiency, what would it be? Why do you think it is a particular area of struggle? What would it look like to humble yourself before God in this area of your life?



**NEXT WEEK - JAMES 5:7-11**