

SCRIPTURE: James 4:1-10

SERIES: The Book of James

TITLE: The Way to Peace

BIG IDEA: James shows that our conflict externally is a direct result of inward conflict and the only way to peace is humble submission to God and His ways.

TEXT

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. [1]

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



[1] *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Jas 4:1-10.

v.1-3

1. WHEN WE DESIRE THE WRONG THINGS, WE FIGHT THE WRONG BATTLES.

- When we find ourselves in conflict, who do we tend to blame first?
- Why is it easier to find fault in others than finding fault in ourselves?
- What are good desires that can become ruling desires?
- How do misplaced internal desires lead to external conflict with others?

Application Question: Is there a desire in me that leads me to conflict when it is threatened?

v.4-5

2. CHRIST IS JEALOUS OF HIS BRIDE.

- What does it mean for the Lord to be jealous of His people?
- Why is it important to consistently evaluate our devotion to the Lord to the exclusion of other things?
- What is spiritual adultery?
- What does spiritual adultery look like for a person living an otherwise respectable Christian life?
- What is the main thing the Lord is "jealous" of in us?
- Are there ways that the world has discipled us so effectively that we tend to call something that is sinful, "normal"?

Application Question: Whose ways am I submitting to?

v.6-10

3. HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO GOD IS THE ONLY WAY TO PEACE.

- What does it mean for God to give more grace?
- What do verses 7-10 teach us about genuine repentance?
- How does humility before God change the way we interact with others?
- What is the difference in feeling bad about something and actually humbling ourselves before the Lord?

Application Question: Is my submission drawing me nearer to Christ or to the world?