



## **JAMES CHAPTER 4 (FACILITATOR)**

### **Discussion Starter**

- What song best describes your life right now?
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.
- Please use your own style, voice, and approach in preparing for leading your life group. Most importantly, take a few minutes to pray over the time together with you group and pray over each group member by name.

### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

### **Read the Story (James 4:1-17)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

### **James 4:1-3**

- ☐ It is important to remember that James is writing and speaking to Christians, men and women of faith who are not exempt from falling into the trap of not only being at odds with their brothers and sisters in Christ but also being in battles with their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is also important to remember that James isn't talking about disagreements or conflict that are inevitable in Christian relationships

but rather Jesus followers who are insisting on their own way driven by their own egos.

- In what ways do you need to more fully lay aside your own ego to love your brothers and sisters in Christ more fully as Jesus does?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is it important to note that James does not say that the “other” person is the source of battling between Christians?
  - Oftentimes, we as Jesus followers can quickly demonize our brothers and sisters making them our adversary because of what we believe they should or should not have done. James makes it clear that when battling and warring between Christians is happening without reconciliation, both parties are at a fault because they are succumbing to their own ego driven desires.
    - How can you avoid demonizing your brothers and sisters in Christ and/or people in general when you don’t agree with them and/or they don’t agree with you?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

#### **James 4:4-12**

- What is beautiful and sobering about James 4:5?
  - One of the beautiful parts of verse 5 is that God has made it possible for His Spirit to live within Christians demonstrating God’s great love and desire for us. One of the sobering parts of verse 5 is that God is jealous of His Spirit that He has placed within us. In other words, He cares deeply about every part of who we are and about every part of who we care being surrendered to Him.
  - What areas of your life are easy for you to daily give to God? What areas of your life are difficult for you to daily give to God?
    - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice that verse 8 contains both an invitation and a promise. The call for Christians isn’t just to flee from sin but also to draw near to God. Walking with Jesus isn’t

about managing my sin but about drawing closer to the heart and mind of God. The promise portion indicates God's desire and heart for us. He wants to be close to us.

### **James 4:13-18**

- In this text, James is not saying that Christians shouldn't plan for the future. Rather, the context of the passage is how Christians are stewarding their resources and blessings. Is it to spend it on themselves and their own desires or to spend it and themselves on God and His kingdom?
  - In what ways do you need to more fully spend yourself and the resources God has given you on the Lord and His kingdom?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week. (James Chapter 5)

## **JAMES CHAPTER 4 (STUDENT)**

### **James 4:1-3**

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  - In what ways do you need to more fully lay aside your own ego to love your brothers and sisters in Christ more fully as Jesus does?
  - Why is it important to note that James does not say that the "other" person is the source of battling between Christians?
    - Oftentimes, we as Jesus followers can quickly demonize our brothers and sisters making them our adversary because of what we believe they should or should not have done. James makes it clear that when battling and warring between Christians is happening without reconciliation, both parties are at a fault because they are succumbing to their own ego driven desires.
      - How can you avoid demonizing your brothers and sisters in Christ and/or people in general when you don't agree with them and/or they don't agree with you?

### **James 4:4-12**

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  - What areas of your life are easy for you to daily give to God? What areas of your life are difficult for you to daily give to God?
- Notice that verse 8 contains both an invitation and a promise. The call for Christians isn't just to flee from sin but also to draw near to God. Walking with Jesus isn't about managing my sin but about drawing closer to the heart and mind of God. The promise portion indicates God's desire and heart for us. He wants to be close to us.

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blessings. Is it to spend it on themselves and their own desires or to spend it and themselves on God and His kingdom?

- In what ways do you need to more fully spend yourself and the resources God has given you on the Lord and His kingdom?

**Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?

What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?