

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Submit to God, Not the World****APPLY // JAMES 3:13-18**

Main Idea: Show your faith by your living out wisdom from above.

1. Read James 3:13-18.
2. What is “wisdom” from below and why does James call it earthly, unspiritual, and demonic?
3. Where might we struggle with bitter jealousy and selfish ambition? What are godly qualities that root out and replace sinfully jealousy and sinful ambition?
4. Why does this type of “wisdom” from below result in disorder and vile practice?
5. Which qualities of wisdom from above are hardest for you to show by good conduct? Which qualities have you seen in other church / CG members?
6. How have you seen or experienced godly wisdom from above bringing peace?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 4:1-10

Main Idea: You cannot be friends with God and the world at the same time.

1. Read James 4:1-10.
2. How would you summarize James’ point of these verses in a sentence or two? How is this summary consistent with what James has been saying? Identify specific connections between these verses and what James wrote in 3:13-18.
3. James begins with a question in verse 1. What do you notice about his question? What does James assume? What issue is James addressing? Why is this a particular concern given to whom he is writing?
4. In verses 2-3, James provides his answer for where our quarrelling comes from. What is his answer? How might this differ from how we typically explain why we fight with others?
 - a. NOTE: When James says you “murder” he’s using metaphorical language in keeping with Jesus (cf. Mt. 5:21-22). Rather than softening our verbal arguments, this brings a greater awareness to their violence.
5. In verse 3, James says some of our prayers aren’t answered because “you ask wrongly, to spend it on your own passions.” What does this phrase mean? How is this consistent with what James says in verse 2?
6. In verse 4, James turns his attention from conflict with other Christians to a breach with God. What words does he use to describe relational strife with God?
7. What does James mean when he says, “friendship with the world” and “to be a friend of the world”? How is this different than being friends with people in the world?
8. What does verse 5 tell us about God’s character? How does this relate back to James using the term “adulterous”?
9. In verse 6, what does it mean when it says “But he gives more grace”? What does this tell us about who God is?
10. Notice the “therefore” in verse 7. Because God’s gives grace, and grace fuels our obedience, the next few verses spell out what it looks like to walk humbly before God. In verses 7-10, James gives no less than ten commands. Identify and discuss what these commands mean and what they look like in actual life.
11. At the end of verse 10, what does it mean that the Lord “will exalt you.”
12. How does this passage point us to the person, work and worth of Jesus?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Where are you living according to wisdom from below? What does it look like to root out and replace that wisdom with true wisdom from above?