

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Submit to God, Not the World

APPLY // JAMES 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. Where are you tempted to be friends with the world? What's the motivation behind this temptation? How is Jesus better?
3. What does it look like to be a community that takes our sin seriously (4:8b-9) and also finds serious joy in Jesus no matter what we face (1:2-4)?
4. Spend time praying we'd be this type of people described by James in this passage. Praise God for our unity, and ask him to keep us from divisive quarrelling.

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 4:11-12

Main Idea: God is judge, we are not.

1. Read James 4:11-12.
2. What's the main point of these verses?
3. How does this passage connect to and flow from what James has already written, especially in 4:1-10?
4. Who is James' audience in this passage? How does this fact help us interpret what problem James is addressing?
5. James addresses both speaking evil and judging other brothers and sisters. What does James have in mind when commanding us not to do each of these?
6. According to the second half of verse 11, what are we doing when we speak evil or judge?
7. Who is ultimately offended when we speak evil and/or judge the law? Where has James discussed the law previously? For what reason was the law given?
8. Why would judging the law make us "not a doer of the word"? What does this reveal about our hearts?
9. According to verse 12, what is the reason we are not to judge? What's the significance that there is only "one lawgiver and judge"? What's the significance that this Lawgiver is "able to save and to destroy"?
10. According to 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, we are to judge those inside the church. What is Paul's point? How is speaking evil judgments different than judging fruit / calling for repentance?
11. How does James 4:11-12 point us to the person and work 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: How is your love for Jesus?