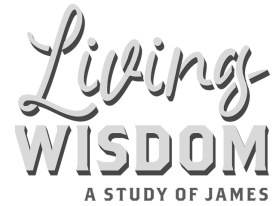


JAMES 1:2-18

October 26-27, 2022



1. Read James 3:17-18 to review the ending of James chapter three. Now read James 4:1. What are the attributes of the wisdom that comes from above according to 3:17-18? What behavior results when heavenly wisdom is not pursued according to 4:1?

What brings about peace in James 3:17-18, and what brings about conflict in James 4:1?

Summarize what Jesus had to say about this subject. Read Mark 7:21-23.

2. Read James 4:1-10 and in your own words describe the community of faith James was addressing.
3. How would you define friendship with the world?

What temptations may lead us into this kind of friendship?

4. James describes friendship with the world in James 4:1-4. Make a list of his descriptions.

How does James finish this sentence? *Whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an _____.*

Read Romans 12:1-2. Why must Believers have a close friendship with God?

5. James 4:2-3 discusses asking God to meet our needs. Read these verses. How will the friend of the world spend whatever they hope to receive?

What are the sour fruits of selfish desires according to 4:2?

Psalm 37 teaches us that God meets the legitimate needs of those who trust in Him. What can we expect to receive when we are friends with God?

Psalm 37:3-4

Psalm 37:5-6

Psalm 37:10-11

Psalm 37:18-19

Psalm 37:23-24

Psalm 37:39-40

6. Read James 4:4-6. Why might James call the Jewish Christians adulterers here? Read God's words to the Jewish nation years earlier in Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 2:2 and Jeremiah 31:3b.

Think again about the dispersion of these Believers to pagan lands. What might be some of their flirtations with the world? What part would pride play in these flirtations?

Who is the person that receives grace from God according to James 4:4-6?

Share an illustration of God's grace manifesting itself in the life of a humble individual you have observed.

7. In James 4:7-10 we find the commands that lead us to friendship with God. List each action word that will bring this about.

James 4:7, 8 and 10 share some resulting rewards for our obedience. What are they?

8. Read James 4:7. We are commanded to submit to God but resist the devil. How can we resist the devil according to 1 Peter 5:8-9?

9. What commands does James give us in order to draw near to God in James 4:8?

How do we fulfill these commands? Read Psalm 139:23-24 and 1 John 1:9-10.

10. Recognizing our tremendous need for cleansing is not to be taken lightly. What does James tell us to do in 4:9?

Explain what these actions would accomplish as you draw near to God.

11. Read James 4:10 and explain these realities of the friend of God:

The way up is down.

The lowly one becomes the lifted one.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

BFF

James 4:1-10

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

4:1-5

Friendship with the world brings pain and _____ in the church.

Intimacy with the ways of the world causes conflict with others, conflict within ourselves, and ultimately conflict with God.

Friendship with the world:

....comes from the selfish desires and passions of our hearts.

....is motivated by our longing for earthly _____.

....prays to God, "My will be done," instead of praying, "Thy will be done."

....results in spiritual adultery against God,
and an illegitimate relationship with the world.

_____ *your heart to God for clarity, confession, and cleansing
and renew an intimate friendship with Him.*

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

4:6-10

Friendship with God is possible because of the gracious desire of God.

Friends of God are those who humbly _____ their need for Him.

Friendship with God results in submission to the authority of God.

God's friends take a stand against God's enemy while standing near to God.

We approach sin _____ and remorsefully when we seek God's friendship.

The faithful friend of God does not exalt themselves but leaves that up to God.

Rejoice that God desires to be your best friend.

*Take inventory on the _____ that block your friendship with God.
Call on God for strength to make friendship with Him your greatest priority.*

Seek His face in prayer and worship and obedience.

Let God love you as He desires to love you.

Living Wisdom – James 4:1-10
October 26-27, 2022

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...

JOHN 17:22-23 “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

1 PETER 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

PSALM 69:9 For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

MATTHEW 5:21-22 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

JEREMIAH 3:20 “Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel,” declares the LORD.”

JEREMIAH 2:11-13 “Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

PSALM 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

REVELATION 3:19-20 “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”