

3. What do Christians quarrel about in ways that show they are not submitting themselves to God? What about families? See 2 Timothy 2:14 and Titus 3:9 for Paul's insights about quarreling.
4. Why don't we always get what we ask of God, according to James? How does James' warning about asking of God compare with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:7? What are the keys to effective prayer and petition? (See also James 1:5-6)

DAY 3: Read James 4:4

1. What do you think James means when he calls people "adulterous"? What makes people this way? Do you know people like this? What is the antidote for this kind of adultery?
2. James write that a "friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." What does it mean to be a friend of the world in this context? How does friendliness toward the world become hatred toward God? Notice how this idea mirrors what James says in verse 27 of chapter 1. For similar warnings about the world, see John 15:18-19 and 1 John 2:15-17.
3. Why should we hate the world when Genesis teaches us that God created the world, when John 3:16 states that God loves the world, and Psalm 50:12 reminds us that the world is God's? How do you reconcile these perspectives on "the world"?

DAY 4: Read James 4:5-6

1. What do you think verse 5 means? How would you put this in your own words?
2. Verse 6 presents the contrast between pride and humility, similar to Psalm 138:6, Proverbs 3:34, Matthew 23:11-12, and 1 Peter 5:5. Why and how does God oppose the proud? Why and how does God give grace to the humble? Have you seen examples of God dealing differently with proud and humble people? How has God helped you to become more humble and less prideful?
3. How does our society, our politics, and our world of business deal with people who are proud? How do they deal with people who are humble? What is the reward for humility in our society, when the clear risk for humble people is that they will be humiliated?

To Dig Deeper: Humility. What does the Bible say about humility? Consider Proverbs 11:2, 1 Peter 5:5, Luke 14:11, Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 2:5-11, among many passages that speak of being humble. The opposite of humility is pride, and the Bible warns against it – see Proverbs 8:3 and Proverbs 16:5 and 18. But the Bible also warns us against “false” humility (Colossians 2:18 and 22), and the Bible also speaks favorably about certain kinds of pride (2 Corinthians 7:4 and 8:24). What is at the heart of genuine humility?

DAY 5: Read James 4:7-10

1. James concludes this passage by calling us to submit to God and resist the devil. Recall those times in your life when you struggled with submission to God. Why did you struggle with submission? What led you to submit? How can you, and how can our church, help rebellious people to submit in humility to God?
2. What instructions does James give in verses 8-10? Some of these make sense—washing our hands and purifying our hearts, for example. But why does James call us to “change your laughter into mourning and your joy to gloom”? Why are we to “grieve, mourn, and wail”? What’s the benefit of submission if it requires mourning, gloom, grieving, and wailing?

