



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Five
James 4:1-17

MAIN POINT

When we humbly and selflessly submit to God, it impacts all areas of our lives.

PRAY

Take time **before** your discussion to pray with and for one another. Be sure to write down the things you'll be praying for so you can continue to pray for your group throughout the week.

INTRODUCTION

Use this section to get the group warmed up a bit. You can use one of these questions, or you could write your own based on this week's text.

When have you been most proud of yourself? What were the circumstances surrounding that moment?

In contrast, what is the most humbling experience you've ever had? How did that experience change you?

Humility is a key characteristic of a mature believer, and it comes as we deepen our intimacy with God. In James 4, James presents a few different situations that call us to humbly and selflessly submit to God and His design for our lives and relationships.

READ JAMES 4:1-12

Where do you see self-indulgence working in our broader culture? How does what you see around you confirm what James is saying in Scripture?

How would you respond to someone who chases sinful desires with excuses like, "live and let live," or "I'm just pursuing my own truth"?

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead gives us the power to overcome our desires. Why, then, don't we turn to God to overcome our sinful desires? How can we make turning to God in the midst of our desires a pattern in everyday life?

How does being in love with the things of the world harm our relationship with God? Is there anything you need to change about your relationships with people or your desires for things as a result of being taught by God's Word?

Verse 10 tells us to humble ourselves before God. How do we do that? What impact might that have on the way we go about our daily living?

Who is the most humble person you know? What could you emulate about his or her life? How does cultivating a humble heart keep us away from jealousy and conflict with others?



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Five
James 4:1-17

READ JAMES 4:13-17

Are you the type of person who loves to make plans, or are you generally more spontaneous and non-committal? Give an example that illustrates your preference.

In what sense can we be prideful in making plans? In what sense can we be prideful in not making plans?

How does thinking about our lives as “mist” check our pride about our lives and how we live them?

PUT YOUR FAITH TO WORK

Which of the commands that James gave do you think is the easiest? Which is the hardest? Why?

How would you explain the concept of seeking humility to a non-believer?

Can you think of at least one specific relationship where more humility on your part would help nurture a better relationship? Pray for an opportunity to show humility to that person this week.

PRAY

Ask God to help you draw near to Him. Ask God to give you grace to live out the commands that James gives regarding humility in your relationships.