

OF JAMES

James - Part 6
To Go Higher, Get Lower
Pastor Dave Patterson
3.31.19

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4:6 & 10

James 4:1-3

What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Vs. 3

... because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

“All true pleasures are authored by God”

C.S. Lewis

1 Tim 6:17

“ . . . Trust in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment”

James 4:4-6

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God

Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

1 John 2:16

For everything in the world (kosmos)—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world (kosmos)

<p>Kosmos = the worlds values and systems that stir desire, seduce us away from God and are hostile to the cause of Christ.</p>
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James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. (NASB)

But He gives us even more grace... (NIV)

But He continues to pour out more and more grace upon us. (TPT)

3 types of grace:

- Common grace – All experience it.
- Saving grace – Ephesians 2:8
- Sustaining grace – grace to get up when you fall

James 4:6-8 (TPT)

But he continues to pour out more and more grace upon us. For it says,

God resists you when you are proud

but continually pours out grace when you are humble.”

So then, surrender to God. Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will turn and run away from you. Move your heart closer and closer to God, and he will come even closer to you

How do we activate the grace of God?

1. Simply bow down
2. Surrender to God's remedy for your situation
"God we don't know what to do but our eyes are on you"
3. Do the obvious "right thing" you know you need to do

James 4:17

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Zechariah 1:3

Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,'

TALK IT THROUGH

1. Who is someone you know who exemplifies a life of humility? How have they inspired you?
2. Read James 4:1-3. What kind of things are you praying for? God wants us to ask for things beyond ourselves. What/who do these verses tell us to pray about/for?
 - Luke 6:28
 - Romans 10:1
 - Colossians 4:3
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:1
 - 2 Corinthians 13:9
 - Philippians 4:6
3. Read James 4:4-6, and 1 John 2:16. Review the definition of "world" (*kosmos*) above. "True intimacy requires exclusivity." What are some subtle ways (and maybe not so subtle) that you are romancing the "world"? Is there an area where you have a divided heart?

4. What are the three levels of grace? Choose one of them, and share how the grace of God has affected your life.

5. Pastor Dave gave three ways we can activate God's grace:
 - Simply bow down
 - Surrender to God's remedy for your situation
 - Do the "obvious" right thing you need to do

What is the obvious right thing you need to do this week? What's your next step in response to God's grace?