

# HOME GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

*Series : James / Sermon 8 / James 4:1-12*

## OPENING QUESTION

Why do you think conflict comes so naturally to us?

## Scripture

4:1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

## Questions

*In what kinds of arguments do you most often find yourself?*

*What does James say lies at the root of all our quarrels and fights?*

## Scripture

4:2-6 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

## Questions

***Have you ever asked God for something “wrongly, to spend it on your passions” (v. 3)?***

***Why do you think James called people who pray this way “adulterous people” (v. 4)?***

***We tend to think of jealousy in a negative light. Why is God justified in yearning “jealously over the Spirit he has made to dwell in us “ (v. 5)?***

## Scripture

4:7-12 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. 11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

## Questions

*What does it look like to submit to God?*

*Why might submitting not be a popular activity in our culture?*

*In vs. 7-12, James gives several actions that show our submission. Take your time to talk honestly and practically about each one. What does each one look like practically?*

*Which of these actions hinder you from being totally submitted to God and how can we pray for you?*

*Is there a conflict in your life that we can pray for together?*