



JAMES: Why We Fight

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Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read James 4:1-12** Once again this week, the scripture passage we are studying opens with a question. *"What causes fights and quarrels among you?"* Why might James employ this teaching technique?
3. Prior to hearing Derek's sermon, how would you have answered James' question? Have James' words enabled you to see the truth about your conflicts? How can we stay focused upon this truth as time passes and this week's sermon becomes distant?
4. **Read James 4:1-2** James answers his question with another question, **"Is it not true that you are at war with the passions within you?"** If you are willing, share with the group a past or current war within you that caused conflict in your life. Or, what have been the *causes* of the conflict in your life? Or, what is it that we desire that we cannot obtain?
5. The causes of our conflicts, our passions and desires, are often met with negative consequences. What strategies can we employ to alert ourselves when "we place ourselves at the center of our universe?"
6. **Read James 4:3-6** How can we train ourselves, grow our spirit, to keep our requests to God in line with God's desires for us?
7. Discuss the Five-Part Cure for our conflicts:
 - a. Get under God's authority- **(James 4:7)** Put in proper order your rank with God and draw near to Him and submit
 - b. Forcefully defy the devil- **(James 4:7)** Stop resisting God and one another and start to resist Satan.
 - c. Seek purification in repentance – **(James 4:8-9)** Search your heart and come to God in repentance for the part you are playing in your conflict
 - d. Trust God to restore you- **(James 4:10)** Humility is incredibly difficult in the middle of conflict, but it's the only way out.
 - e. Stop Playing God (or the devil) **(James 4:11-12)** Stop speaking evil against one another and stop judging one another. James releases us from the responsibility of judging others!

Application: What causes the conflicts in your life? Which one of the five "cures" can help you now?

Prayer Thought:

Father God, James has asked a question and through him, you have provided us an answer. We acknowledge that our conflicts come from our passions and desires. Help us to be mindful of our weaknesses in this area. And, give us strength and humility when we draw near to you in repentance and admit our part in our struggles with those around us.