

# **Faith ALIVE!**

## **A study in the Book of James Lesson Six**

**Gold River Calvary Chapel  
Women's Bible Fellowship**

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### **A Study in the Book of JAMES**

**Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry**

## **Lesson Six**

### **James 4:1-17**

**Summary:** *This week we are warned against worldly living and attitudes.*

#### **Step One: Read the Word**

**"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3 (CSB)**

This study uses the English Standard Version Bible translation (ESV), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, and circle any key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

*Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.*

**Complete Step One by reading and marking up James Chapter 4, below, and answering the questions that follow.**

<p><b>James 4</b> <b>English Standard Version</b></p> <p><b>Warning Against Worldliness</b></p> <p><sup>1</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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”? <sup>6</sup> But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”</p>	
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<sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

### **Boasting About Tomorrow**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" — <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what

<p>tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do  this or that." <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. <sup>17</sup> So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.</p>	
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**Step 1 Questions:**

1. What does James say causes fights among Christian brothers and sisters? (Verses 1 – 2a).
2. What two reasons does James give for not receiving what we do not have? (Verses 2b-3)
3. What is a result of being a friend to the world? (Verses 4-5)

4. Fill in the blanks below from verses 6-8 that describe the steps we are to take in order to be humble before God:

<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves therefore to \_\_\_\_\_. Resist the \_\_\_\_\_, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ from you. <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ to you. \_\_\_\_\_ your hands, you \_\_\_\_\_, and purify your \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

5. What does verse 10 say will happen when we repent and humble ourselves before the Lord?

6. Summarize verses 11-12 in your own words below:

7. What type of boasting does James say is evil in verses 13-16?

8. What is the result failing to do what we know is right according to verse 17?

## ***Step 2: Consider the Word***

**“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” Colossians 3:16 (CSB)**

Re-read James Chapter 4 and answer the questions below. (Remember to use the English Standard Version (ESV) translation provided in Step One to answer).

1. See verses 1-4.
  - (a) Is James describing the wrong actions of believers or nonbelievers? Does this surprise you?
  - (b) What does Jesus tell us about how we can murder another person without actually taking a life? See Matthew 5:21-22. How might that be exhibited in a church today between brothers and sisters?
  - (c) Besides causing strife with others, what inner war does James describe? (See also 1 Peter 2:11).

(Question 1 cont.)

(d) James says in verses 2-3 that our prayers are not answered for two reasons:

(1) we do not ask God for it, or (2) or we ask with a selfish motive in mind.

i. What promise does 1 John 5:14-15 give us when we pray with the right motives?

ii. Based on 1 John 5:14-15, in whose will should we pray? Our will or God's will?

2. See verses 4-5. What is the root problem causing all the strife according to verse 4? See also 1 John 2:5-6.

3. See verses 6-10.

a. What role do you think humility plays in our submission to God? (Verse 7)

b. What role does humility play in real sorrow over sin? (Verses 8-9)

c. What role does humility play in our growing near to God? (Verse 8)



(Question 3 cont.)

- d. Why do you think God resists the proud? (Verses 6 and 8)
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- 4. Check the statement below that best describes what James is telling us in verse 7b:
    - I must fight long and hard with the devil before he leaves me alone
    - When I resist the devil, he will eventually go away
    - When I resist the devil, he will run quickly away
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- 5. See verses 11-12.
    - a. How is verse 11 consistent with what James wrote in Chapter 3:8-10?
    - b. How is verse 12 consistent with James Chapter 2:12-13?
    - c. How would speaking evil against a brother or sister be an indication of a lack of humility? What would one have to think about oneself in order to speak evil against a fellow believer – or anyone for that matter?

(Question 5 cont.)

d. Why would a sin of omission (of not doing the right thing) be as much a sin as doing the wrong thing? (Verse 17)

**Memory Verse: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.  
(James 4:10)**

Write the memory verse down below:

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### Step 3: Walk in the Word

**“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ...” Philippians 1:27 (ESV)**

Re-read James Chapter 4 and answer the questions below

1. Has what you have learned in James Chapter 4 changed how and what you might ask God for in prayer? Explain below.
2. Think of a time when you humbled yourself before God in true heartfelt repentance over a sin or sins.

  - a. How did this affect your feeling of nearness to God?
  - b. How should this effect your judgment of other people?

3. Is there something you know God wants you to do, or give up doing, but you are resisting? How does God's promise that He will draw near to you when you draw near to Him strengthen you to be obedient in this matter?

Write the memory verse below:

**Memory Verse:** “ \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves before the

\_\_\_\_\_, and he will \_\_\_\_\_ you. (James 4:10)

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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