

Small Group Bible Study

James Week 3

Sermon Overview

James gets to the root of our struggles and shows that most conflict around us actually starts within us. He exposes how easily we drift toward worldliness and misplaced desires. But he also shows the way back, through humility, surrender, and drawing near to God.

Opening Prayer

God, help us be honest about what's going on in our hearts. Show us what needs to change and give us the courage to respond. Amen.

Icebreaker Question

- What is something small that tends to frustrate you more than it should?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Read James 4:1–4

- According to this passage, where do conflicts actually come from?
- What words or phrases stand out that describe human desires?
- What does James say about why prayers sometimes go unanswered?
- What does “friendship with the world” mean in this context?
- How does James describe the seriousness of divided loyalty toward God?
- Where do you see these “internal battles” showing up in your own life?
- What might it look like for your desires to be shaped by God instead of the world?

2. Read Matthew 7:13–14 and Romans 7:18–19

- How does Jesus describe the difference between the easy path and the right path?
- What does Paul reveal about the struggle within us?
- How do these two passages connect to what James says about desires at war within us?
- Why do you think the “wide road” is so appealing?
- Where do you feel the tension between what you know is right and what you actually do?
- What does this teach us about the difficulty of following Jesus?
- How might recognizing this struggle actually help you depend more on God?

3. Read Mark 10:17–22 and James 4:5

- What stands out about the rich young ruler’s response to Jesus?
- What was the one thing he was unwilling to surrender?
- How does Jesus respond to him emotionally in this moment?
- What does James 4:5 reveal about God’s desire for us?
- Why is it often one specific thing that keeps us from full surrender?
- What might be your “one thing” that is hardest to let go of?
- How does knowing that God loves you deeply change how you view surrender?

4. Read James 4:6–10 and Philippians 2:5–8

- What actions does James call us to take in response to sin and worldliness?
- What does humility look like according to this passage?
- What promise is given to those who draw near to God?
- How does Jesus model humility in Philippians 2?
- Why is humility essential in overcoming sin?
- What is one practical way you can “submit to God” this week?
- How does God’s promise to lift us up change your willingness to humble yourself?

APPLICATION

- What is one specific step you can take this week to move from knowing what God says to actually living it out in your daily life?
- Identify one area of your life where your desires are pulling you away from God and surrender it this week.
- Spend intentional time with God each day, asking Him to reshape your desires and motives.
- Practice humility in one relationship by choosing to listen, serve, or step back instead of pushing your way.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we don’t want to live divided lives. Teach us to surrender fully, walk humbly, and draw near to You. Change our desires and lead us in Your way. Amen.