

Empty Boxes Series

5-Day Devotional

The Book of James Week 2

Day 1 Theme: What's Really Going On Inside

Scripture: James 4:1-3

James doesn't start with behavior, he starts with the heart. The conflict around us is often a reflection of the conflict within us. Our desires, when left unchecked, begin to control us. Instead of bringing those desires to God, we try to satisfy them ourselves, and it leaves us frustrated and empty.

- What internal desires might be driving tension or frustration in your life right now?
- When you want something deeply, do you bring it to God or try to control the outcome yourself?
- What would it look like to surrender those desires to God today?

Prayer: God, help me see what's really going on in my heart and teach me to bring it to You first. Amen.

Day 2 Theme: The Wide Road Is Easy

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus is clear that the easy path is not the right one. Worldliness often feels natural because it doesn't require sacrifice. It asks nothing of us, but it also gives nothing lasting in return. Following Jesus will cost something, but it leads to real life.

- Where are you choosing what's easy instead of what's right?
- How have you experienced the difference between the "wide road" and the "narrow road"?
- What is one hard choice God might be asking you to make right now?

Prayer: Jesus, give me the courage to choose the narrow path, even when it's hard. Amen.

Day 3 Theme: The One Thing Holding You Back

Scripture: Mark 10:17-22

The rich young ruler had done a lot right, but there was one thing he wouldn't surrender. Jesus exposed it not to shame him, but because He loved him. Often, the biggest barrier between us and full surrender isn't everything, it's one thing we're holding onto.

- What is one thing in your life that would be hardest to surrender to God?
- Why do you think that thing has such a strong hold on you?
- How might your life change if you trusted Jesus with that area?

Prayer: Lord, show me what I'm holding onto and help me trust You enough to let it go. Amen.

Day 4 Theme: Love That Pulls You Back

Scripture: Romans 5:8; James 4:5-6

God's love meets us before we ever clean ourselves up. He moves toward us while we're still in sin, not after we've fixed everything. His love doesn't ignore our brokenness, it pulls us out of it. And when we respond with humility, His grace meets us there.

- How does knowing God loves you in your brokenness change how you approach Him?
- Where do you need to receive God's grace instead of trying to earn it?
- What does humility look like in your relationship with God right now?

Prayer: God, thank You for loving me as I am and not leaving me there. Teach me to walk in Your grace. Amen.

Day 5 Theme: Draw Near and Be Changed

Scripture: James 4:7-10

James gives a clear path forward: submit, resist, draw near, and humble yourself. This isn't about perfection, it's about direction. As we move toward God, He moves toward us. Real change doesn't come from trying harder, it comes from staying close to Him.

- What does it practically look like for you to draw near to God this week?
- Is there an area where you need to stop resisting God and start submitting to Him?
- How can humility shape the way you approach your faith moving forward?

Prayer: God, I want to be close to You. Help me to submit, resist what pulls me away, and walk humbly with You. Amen.