

Week 8, Devotional 1 – James 4:1-2

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are big enough to change us and kind enough to love us – even when we fail. Help us to be more like you now as we read your Word.
Scripture Reading	James 2:18
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where does James say wars and fights among people come from? (v 1). 2. Often, our frustration is birthed out of unmet expectations. What is a time that you became frustrated because someone didn't meet your expectations? 3. Does the end of verse 2 sound like there are things (or outcomes) that we don't have simply because we haven't asked God for them? (hint: YES) 4. Have you ever had a prayer answered in an amazing way? Please share. 5. What is something you need to trust God with in prayer? 6. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Listen to "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" by Paul Baloche</p> <p>V1: What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.</p> <p>V2: Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.</p> <p>V3: Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer. Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.</p> <p>V4: Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer. Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.</p>
Prayer	<u>Confession:</u> Lord, would you forgive us for the broken relationships in our lives that we have contributed to. Would you also forgive us for getting frustrated when we don't have things that we have yet to ask you for?

	<p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that you hear our prayers and give us what we need.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> (now ask God for things you haven't been asking Him for. Ask Him to change situations, hearts, and to meet your needs.</p>
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Week 8, Devotional 2 – James 4:2-3

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are good – and you are good to us. You are patient when we are not – and your motives are pure when ours are selfish. Help us to be more like you as we read your Word now.
Scripture Reading	James 4:2-3
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What have you recently begun to ask God for? 2. How does trusting God with outcomes and provision help us to not fight with others and covet what they have? 3. What does verse 3 say is a reason that God sometimes does not give us what we ask for? 4. What are some examples of selfish prayers that you've prayed? 5. Does this mean we shouldn't pray for things that only benefit us? (hint: no. We can pray about anything – but we need to check our hearts and motives as we pray). 6. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up "The Lord's Prayer" by Matt Maher</p> <p>V1: Father let Your Kingdom come Father let Your will be done On earth as in heaven Right here in my heart</p> <p>Father let Your Kingdom come Father let Your will be done On earth as in heaven Right here in my heart</p> <p>Chorus: Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us, forgive us As we forgive the ones who sinned against us Forgive them And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one Let Your kingdom come</p> <p>V1 repeat:</p>

	<p>Father let Your Kingdom come (Holy, holy) Father let Your will be done On earth as in heaven (Let it be done) Right here in my heart</p> <p>Father let Your Kingdom come (Holy, holy) Father let Your will be done On earth as in heaven (Let it be done) Right here in my heart</p> <p>Chorus: Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us, forgive us As we forgive the ones who sinned against us Forgive them And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one Let Your kingdom come</p> <p>Bridge: It's Yours, it's Yours All Yours, all Yours The kingdom, the power, the glory are Yours It's Yours, it's Yours All Yours, all Yours Forever and ever the kingdom is Yours</p> <p>Chorus again</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, there are times when my prayers are motivated by selfishness. Forgive me.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that when we confess our sin, you are faithful and just to forgive us. Thank you that you have given us prayer as a way to ask you for the things we (and others) need.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> Help me to grow in my love for others and in my desire to honor you. I want to have the right motivations when I pray.</p>

Week 8, Devotional 3 – James 4:4

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are so different than we are. We use our words like weapons, and your words bring life. You have only pure and good thoughts while our minds are filled with things that aren't so good. Help us strive to be more like you today as we read your Word.
Scripture Reading	James 4:4
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to be a “friend” of the world? (hint: it means to love the things that culture loves which oppose the things that God loves). 2. Is it possible to be a friend with the world and in close relationship with God? (read verse 4 for the answer). 3. Have you ever chosen to believe or do something that God’s Word made clear is not honoring to Him? 4. What wrong belief did you hold that influenced you to be “friends” with the world? 5. Does God forgive us when we choose the world over Him? (hint: yes – but He also changes us and our desires to be more like His). 6. How can the Good News of Jesus motivate us to pursue Jesus instead of what culture has to offer? 7. What did you learn through this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Listen to “In Christ Alone My Hope is Found” by Shane and Shane</p> <p>V1: In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light, my strength, my song This cornerstone, this solid ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm</p> <p>What heights of love, what depths of peace When fears are stilled, when strivings cease My comforter, my all in all Here in the love of Christ I stand</p> <p>V2: In Christ alone, who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save</p> <p>Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied For ev'ry sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ, I live</p> <p>V3: There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain</p>

	<p>Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ</p> <p>V4: No guilt in life, no fear in death This is the pow'r of Christ in me From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny</p> <p>And no pow'r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand Till He returns or calls me home Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand</p>
<p>Prayer</p>	<p><u>Confession:</u> Lord, we sometimes choose to be “friends” with the world even when it means being opposed to you. Change our hearts. Forgive us for believing the lies of this culture.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you that there is forgiveness for all that we do when we are Christians. Thank you for your grace and mercy. Thank you for how you make us more like you.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> God, make us more like you. Give us eyes for a lost world – give us a heart for our hurting neighbors – and give us grace for those who wrong us.</p>

Week 8, Devotional 4 – James 4:7-10

Activity	Source
Prayer	<u>Adoration:</u> Lord, you are wise and your give us good things. We praise you and ask that you'd help us now to learn more about you and to follow you more closely.
Scripture Reading	James 4:7-10
Discussion Questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does verse 7 say happens when we submit to God and resist the devil? 2. How does that give you confidence? 3. What word comes to mind when you read verses 8-9? (Ideas: Repentance, grace, confession, faithfulness). 4. How do we “draw near to God?” (hint: in prayer – through time in His Word – by obeying His commands to obey, serve, and evangelize – etc.) 5. What does God do when we draw near to Him? 6. When you read verse 9 – does it bring to mind a time when you confessed your sins to God in a sorrowful way? 7. What does verse 10 say God does when we humble ourselves? 8. What did you learn in this lesson?
Hymn/Song	<p>Look up “Repent (What a Joy it is)” by The Worship Initiative</p> <p>V1: Day by day Running along this race Sometimes I fall astray And I might again But every time You lead me back to life You never leave my side Remind me again</p> <p>Chorus: Your goodness makes me wanna sing Your mercy brings me to my knees Your faithfulness is with me till the end Your kindness makes me want to repent Jesus I repent</p> <p>V2: Patient grace Mercy that far outweighs Even my worst mistakes</p>

	<p>There's no greater love I can't thank You enough</p> <p>Chorus: Your goodness makes me wanna sing Your mercy brings me to my knees Your faithfulness is with me till the end Your kindness makes me want to repent Jesus I repent</p> <p>Bridge: I'm turning from sin I'm turning to Christ What a joy it is to follow You To follow You</p> <p>I throw off the weight I throw down my pride What a joy it is to follow You To follow You</p> <p>You're washing my heart You're renewing my mind What a joy it is to follow You To follow You</p> <p>It's freedom from death It's fullness of life What a joy it is To follow You</p>
Prayer	<p><u>Confession:</u> God, I repent of the things I have done that don't honor you. I turn from my sin and turn to Jesus – knowing that's where grace is found.</p> <p><u>Thanksgiving:</u> Thank you for your grace which I don't deserve. Thank you for the gospel – that Jesus died in my place so that I can be forgiven.</p> <p><u>Supplication:</u> Father, give me a heart that is sensitive to my sin. When my heart grows hardened, soften it again.</p>