

TO LIVE IS CHRIST**Fights, Quarrels, Submission****James 4:1–12**

*“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
Come near to God and he will come near to you.” James 4:7–8*

Day 1: Read James 4:1–12.

1. Multiple choice: “What causes fights and quarrels among you?” (vs. 1)
 - a. other people
 - b. circumstances
 - c. you
2. When there are fights and quarrels, what is going on internally? (vs. 1) What sinful attitudes does James say are present? (vss. 2–3)
3. What do people tend to do when their desires are frustrated and they don’t get what they want? (vs. 2) What do you tend to do when your desires are frustrated?
4. You may never have “killed” anyone. But what deeper insight into murder does Jesus offer? (Matt. 5:21–22)
5. What is the sobering truth about the kind of wanting that ends in “fights and quarrels” and “killing”? (2 Peter 2:19b)

Day 2: Read James 4:1–3.

6. What are the two reasons given by James that a person might not obtain what she desires? (vss. 2b–3)
7. Think of a time when you wanted something—and even prayed for it—but you discovered that you wanted it for the wrong reason. Looking back, what motives were driving you? Were you aware of them at the time?
8. How can our motives be discerned? (Ps. 139:23–24)

9. What should you do if you discover that you want things for the wrong reasons? (See Heb. 4:15–16; James 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9) What hope do we have? (Ps. 51:10)

Day 3: Read James 4:4–5.

10. What does “friendship with the world” (vs. 4) mean? (1 Jn. 2:15–16)
11. Why do you think James equates “friendship with the world” with adultery?
12. Friendship with the world, on the surface, doesn’t sound so bad. But what impact does James say it has on our relationship with God?
13. James says the Holy Spirit in us “envies intensely”. Why is that so? (1 Cor. 6:19–20). How do you feel about the fact that God’s Spirit is passionate about your affections?

Day 4: Read James 4:6–10.

14. To whom does God give more grace? (vs. 6b)
15. What does a “humble” person do? (vss. 7–9)
16. Does God want you to “grieve, mourn, and wail” over your sin forever, or is it a temporary state? (vs. 10; Lam. 3:22–23) What promises does God make to the person who humbles herself like that? (vss. 6, 8, 10)

Day 5: Read James 4:11–12.

17. Think of some subtle ways you have of slandering or speaking evil of others, and repent of this now, asking God for grace.
18. Why is it foolish as well as sinful to judge and slander another person? (2:12–13; vss. 11–12; Rom. 2:1)
19. Pray to have your desires aligned with God’s own desires. Will he refuse such a prayer? (1:5)