

WOMEN OF GRACE

Lesson 7 | James 4:1-17

“The Scriptures give many marks of a true Christian, such as love for God, repentance from sin, humility, devotion to God’s glory, prayer, love for others, separation from the world, growth, and obedience. But nothing more clearly summarizes the character of a genuine believer than a desire to do the will of God.” – John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, James, p. 229

MEMORIZATION VERSE

James 1:9

But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position...

DAY 1 | The Dangers of Worldliness | Read James 4 (focusing on vs. 1-6)

1. What impacted you the most from last week’s lesson or lecture? How is God using that to sanctify you?
2. How does James 4:1–4 connect with what came before in James 3:13–18?
3. According to James 4:1–3, what reasons are given for conflict, both internally and with others?
4. From verse 3, what did James say hinders a believer’s prayer?
 - a. How can you tell the difference between good desires and bad desires?

- b. Where might selfishness and wrong motives motivate your own prayer requests?

5. According to verse 4, what does friendship with the world look like? Why do you think that James likens it to adultery? See also Romans 12:2, 1 Peter 2:11, and 1 John 2:15–17.

6. Though believers no longer love the world, the battle with sin still exists. In your own life, where do you see evidence of love of the world? What steps can you take to counter that?

DAY 2 | Draw Near to God | Read James 4:6-10

1. What does verse 6 say about the power and grace of God?
 - a. What are some evidences of pride?

 - b. Where do you see evidence of pride in your own life? How can you use what you've learned in James to fight against it?

2. In verses 7–8, what specific instructions does James give to fight pride? In your own words, explain what that means, using Scripture to support your answer.

- a. How do Psalm 24:3–4, Psalm 63, and Ephesians 6:10–18 deepen your understanding of James’ exhortation?

3. In James 4:9, what instruction about responding to sin does James give to believers? List two other references that support this.

4. In verse 10, what promise is given? What do you think that means?

DAY 3 | Don’t Slander | Read James 4:11

1. In James 4:11, what command is given?
 - a. Use a dictionary to define “slander.” How does slandering make one a judge of the law?

2. From verse 11, what do you think James wanted to emphasize by the repetition of “brethren” or “brother?”

3. How do Matthew 7:1–5 and Galatians 5:15 increase your understanding of the meaning of slander and judging others?

4. Does the command against slandering and judging mean one should not expose sin? See Proverbs 10:18, 1 Corinthians 4:14, Ephesians 4:31, and Colossians 1:28.

5. In James 4:12, what is revealed about God's character and work? How does that relate to verse 11?

DAY 4 | Living According to God's Will | Read James 4:13-17

1. Do you think it's wrong to make plans for the future and/or to talk about those plans? Why or why not?
 - a. What mindset is revealed when we talk like those in James 4:13?

2. According to verse 14, why should we not boast about our lives?
 - a. How should this effect one's view of life?

3. What do Luke 12:13–21, Proverbs 27:1, and Isaiah 46:9–10 teach about a believer's priorities, wealth, and certainties in life?

4. According to Ephesians 5:17–21, 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8, 1 Peter 2:13–15, and 1 Peter 3:17, what is God’s revealed will for believers?

5. In light of James 4:17, what things do you knowingly neglect in your own walk with God? What steps can you take to do what is right, and will you purpose to do that this week?

DAY 5 | The Big Picture | Read James 4:1-17

1. How did you see God’s character revealed specifically in James 4? How does this impact your own worship of Him, and your walk with Him?

2. How does resisting worldliness and submitting to God’s will relate to wisdom?

3. A believer must carefully study and know Scripture in order to walk in obedience to God. Evaluate your own habits of biblical growth in the following areas and what needs to change.
 - a. time spent each week hearing God’s Word read, preached, and taught

 - b. time spent reading God’s Word on your own

