

- From your own personal knowledge and experience, what signs of friendship with the world have you observed in others or in yourself?
- If God considers our pursuit of selfish and worldly goals to be adultery, how does that affect our relationship with him?
- What is pride and how does it interfere with your relationship to God?
- The *Serenity* study says, "To receive grace a person must **ask** for it. To be able to ask, one must **see the need** to do so. The proud person can't and doesn't see such a need. Only the humble do." Discuss this statement.
- How can God's love for you keep you from becoming a friend of the world?

Individual Study

- According to the following scriptures, what can help us in our struggles with earthly desires and influences? Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:24-25, Romans 6:11-14, Colossians 3:2.

Attitude

According to the *Life Change series*, submission to God is not "a **passive** lying back and letting God do whatever He wants, but an **active** obedience to God's commands as a soldier submits to their general." We must willingly submit rather than simply accept our role. The word resist used in James 4:7 is *anthistemi* in Greek. It is a military term meaning to oppose, stand against, and take your position in the battle. James considers us God's army poised to defeat the devil in the war for our souls.

Group Discussion

Read James 4:7-10.

- List the 10 commands James gives in these verses.
- What should your attitude be when you approach God?
- James 4:9 is about our response to sin. How does James think we should feel when we repent?
- Read Ephesians 6:12-18 and discuss the actions Christians can take to resist evil.
- Washing your hands was one of the ritual requirements to become ceremonially clean in preparation for worshiping God (see Exodus 30:17-21). How can we prepare to draw closer to our Lord?

Individual Study

- Resist the devil: Matthew 4:1-11, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:5-10, 1 John 5:18.
- Humility: Psalm 138:6, Proverbs 3:34, Proverbs 16:19, 1 Peter 5:5-6.
- Repentance: Psalm 51.

Slander and Judgment

James addresses yet another way our tongue, when unchecked, can get in the way of our relationship to God. Slander, in Greek, is *kataleleo* which means to speak evil of someone. Judge, in Greek, is *krino* which means punish, condemn, avenge, damn, and judge.

Before you read the James passage, refresh your memory about the Royal Law from session 3 (Matthew 22:34-40).

Group Discussion

Read James 4:11-12.

- When you slander or judge someone, how are you disobeying the Royal Law?
- How does putting others before yourself keep you from speaking evil against another person?
- Read Matthew 7:1-5. How does this connect with James 4:11?
- There is only one lawgiver (Greek: *nomothetes* = legislator). What does a legislator do? Who performs that function according to James?
- When we judge others, whose power are we attempting to wield? Why is it not our place to pass judgment?
- According to James, what does submitting to God look like?

Individual Study

- Is the law mentioned in James 4:11 the same as the law in James 1:25, 2:8, and/or 2:12? Why or why not?
- Speaking evil: Luke 18:9-14, Ephesians 4:31, 1 Peter 2:1-3.

Commitment

This week I will practice submitting to God by taking the following action:
