

# James 4:1-11

## How to Treat Each Other Right!

### Life Group Study Guide

Sugar Grove Church of Christ  
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For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups

***Your Job Is To Build People,  
Not Just Lead a Meeting***

*\*Note: Intended direction of discussion is listed in italics after some of the questions. Please do not read these 'answers' to your group but instead use them to help guide your group discussion.*

***\*\*NOTE: Each Life Group member will need a copy of the sheet at the end of this curriculum.***

#### Life Group Life:

- Make sure everyone in your group knows everyone else. If you have new members take a few minutes getting to know them and learning how they came to be connected to your group.
- In the past week what has been a high or a low or both in your life?  
*(Encourage each person in the group to share something from their week that has been a high and one thing that has been a low. There is not right or wrong answer to this question. **This is an exercise that offers the opportunity to celebrate or mourn with each other. For example, if a group member shares a "low" that is really significant stop what your group is doing and pray over/with that person right then and there.**)*

#### Memory Verse:

*"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 4:7-8a*

If your group has more than 8 people you may want to break into groups of 4-8 people to facilitate greater participation and discussion. Then come back together at the end of the discussion time and have someone from each group report the highlights of their discussion.

#### Grow:

- ✚ What causes fights between people?
- ✚ Read James 4:1-3
- ✚ Do you think James is correct when he says fights and quarrels are caused because we want something but we don't get it? Why?
- ✚ Why would God not give us what we ask for if we are going to use what he gives us on our own pleasure?
- ✚ Read James 4:4-6

- ✚ **Spiritual adultery describes someone who loves the world more than they love God. All of us want to believe that this could not describe us but at some level do you ever find yourself loving the world more than you love God?**
- ✚ **How do we know when we have begun to love the world more than we are loving God?**
- ✚ **optional question: What are some specific areas in which you find yourself loving the ‘world’ more than you love God?** (*Group leaders will want to be sensitive to the movement of the Spirit within individuals hearts taking time to minister to any individual needs*)
- ✚ **What are we being called to do in this section of James?** (*submit ourselves to God, don't focus upon ourselves and our own pleasures but upon God...*)

**Serve:**

- ✚ **Read James 4:7-12**
- ✚ **James 4:7-12 gives us a series of commands that are so stated in Greek as to demand immediate action.** (*Pass out 1 sheet from the end of this curriculum for each member of the group.*) **Let's look at each of the commands on this sheet discussing what each command is asking us to do and why.**
- ✚ **How can we help each other in this Life Group and the other members of the body of Christ at Sugar Grove to live out these commands?**
- ✚ **How can submitting our hearts to God change how we treat each other?** (*when we submit ourselves to God we are not focused upon making ourselves happy.*)

**Share:**

- ✚ **Focusing upon ourselves instead of upon God can prevent someone from accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior through baptism. Do you know of anyone who you would consider to be in this position, even including yourself (of focusing upon themselves instead of upon God)?**
- ✚ **What can we do to encourage people/each other to submit their/our heart to God so that they/we can receive God's gift of salvation and be baptized?**

**Worship:**

- ✚ **What area of your life do you need to submit to God? If you would like to share this area with the group we will lift it up to the Lord in prayer.** (*Spend a few moments lifting up requests to God in prayer. Also give each person time to pray silently.*)
- ✚ **Close your group time in a song of praise to God or wherever the Spirit of God leads your group!**

**Preperation for Next Time:**

- Read James 4:13-5:6

# Commands from James 4:7-11

*For each of the following discuss as a group what each command is asking us to do, why it is asking us to do that, and how we can help each other to obey these commands.*

## 4:7 Submit yourselves to God

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:7 Resist the devil

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:8 Come near to God

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:8 Wash your hands (*before OT priests could enter the temple they had to wash their hands as a symbol of spiritual cleansing.*)

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:8 Purify your hearts

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:9 Grieve, mourn, and wail (*repent*)

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_

## 4:11 Do not slander one another

*what* \_\_\_\_\_

*why* \_\_\_\_\_

*how* \_\_\_\_\_