

James 4: 1-10



The Text – James 4:1-10

1. Read through James 4:1-10. In your own words, describe the problems James sees in the church. What does he see as the cause of this trouble?
2. What do you think it means that their 'passions are at war' within them? How does this cause fighting?
3. In verses 2 and 3, it describes prayer. What do these verses reveal about the hearts of the people fighting and their attitude towards God?
4. Verse 4 makes an accusation that these people have chosen friendship or 'the affection' of the world. How does this connect with the first 3 verses?
5. Verses 5 and 6 are difficult verses. What spirit are they talking about? What does it mean when it says, 'But he gives more grace?'
6. Verses 7-10 describe the response James is urging the warring church to take. What surprises or confronts you about his words? Why would this response of mourning and weeping be appropriate?
7. From your discussion, try and summarise the main ideas of this passage in your own words. How would you summarise it simply for a friend?

The Scriptures – James 4:1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. Read Proverbs 3:28-35. James quotes this passage in verse 6. How is this passage in Proverbs related to James' teaching?
9. Read Micah 2:1-3. What connections do you notice between this passage and James?
10. Read Matthew 6:19-24. In what ways does Jesus' teaching reflect the words of James?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to James 4:1-10 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. In what ways do humans try and take possession of the world? Where have you seen this create 'warring' and fighting?
12. How might your attitude to possessions and power and influence change if we see all these things as gifts from God for a time to be used in love for him?
13. Where does pride lurk in your life? How might you respond to these areas in light of this passage?