

Home Group Questions – James 4

You may find The Message paraphrase of James 4 helpful to refer to or read alongside this study.

James 4 starts with the question – What causes fights and quarrels among you? What do you think is the cause of fights and arguments in the world today? Can any with good knowledge of history remember what has started some of the wars in the past?

James challenges us in v2 that ‘You covet but you cannot get what you want’. When have you found yourself frustrated that you’re not able to ‘get what you want’ or have your own way? Have there even been good things in your life that you have desired too much and led you into conflict with others?

Fighting among ourselves is linked in James to our relationship with God (v2-3). What do you think James means by ‘asking with the wrong motives’ in prayer? What are the right motives when it comes to our attitude in prayer?

Read v4-5. They are called ‘adulterous people’ in their relationship with God – what had their behaviour been like? What was James setting as the standard they should be aiming for?

This passage in James can feel a bit like you’re being told off. Where we feel like we have been failing, verse 6 is a great comfort.

However, James doesn’t let us off the hook – where self-seeking attitudes in our lives lead us into conflict he’s clear about what it means to humble ourselves before the Lord. Read v7-10 – what is James calling us to do in response? What does it look like for us to do this today?

Spend some time in prayer – doing as James says. Repent of the attitudes we easily have that James challenges. Pray for our world – grieve and mourn the conflict we see locally, nationally and internationally.