

How To Avoid Arguments

A Study on the Book of James

James 4:1-10

THE CAUSE OF ARGUMENTS: CONFLICTING DESIRES

Three desires that cause conflict...

❶ THE DESIRE TO HAVE STUFF

(James 4:2)

❷ THE DESIRE TO FEEL GOOD

(James 4:3-4)

❸ THE DESIRE TO BE THE BEST

(James 4:5-6, Proverbs 13:10)

THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS: GRACE & HUMILITY

Steps to defusing conflict...

❶ GIVE IN TO GOD

(James 4:7a, Colossians 3:15)

❷ GET WISE TO SATAN

(James 4:7b, 2 Corinthians 2:11)

❸ GROW CLOSER TO GOD

(James 4:8a, Isaiah 26:3)

❹ BE WILLING TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

(James 4:8b-10)

REALife Application

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friend, or REALife Group.

Series Big Idea:

Maturity is consistently hitting the bulls eye (doing the right thing), no matter the circumstance.

Key Questions:

1. Who did you quarrel with the most growing up? What is at the root of arguments/fights/quarrels?
2. What are two reasons we don't have what we want? What might other reasons be for unanswered prayers?
3. When disagreements arise with another person, what needs to happen (vs.2c, 7,11)?
4. What "desires" seem to drive the world around us? What can we do to overcome the lure of the world? How does following verses 7-10 improve our relationship with God?
5. When you quarrel/argue, do you seek to understand what desire is really motivating you? Do you pray about this desire? Where do you need to improve?

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THE CAUSE OF ARGUMENTS:

Three desires that cause conflict...

❶ **THE DESIRE TO** _____
(James 4:2)

❷ **THE DESIRE TO** _____
(James 4:3)

❸ **THE DESIRE TO** _____
(James 4:4-6, Proverbs 13:10)

THE CURE FOR ARGUMENTS:

Steps to defusing conflict...

❶ _____ **TO GOD**
(James 4:7a, Colossians 3:15)

❷ _____ **TO SATAN**
(James 4:7b, 2 Corinthians 2:11)

❸ _____ **TO GOD**
(James 4:8a, Isaiah 26:3)

❹ **BE WILLING TO** _____
(James 4:8b-10)

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