



GOSPEL | COMMUNITY | MISSION

March 4, 2018 – James 4:1-12 – “Grace to the Humble”

QUESTIONS

(potential discussion/conversation questions to use in your GGs this week)

1. Why does James focus so much on our hearts in this text and in this book? What else do we tend to look at to assess our spiritual health?
2. Is it comforting or discouraging to you that so much of the NT is spent addressing conflicts? Why?
3. How does Christ show us what it looks like to overlook offenses? When should we overlook another's offense? How and when should we confront another's offense?
4. Have you ever prayed for something with the wrong motives? Is anyone willing to share an example of when and how they realized their motives were wrong?
5. What's your reaction to James calling his readers spiritual adulterers? Why do you think he uses such strong imagery? How does your reaction to worldly cravings compare with James' seriousness?
6. James provides several ways to test our hearts:
 - Are you discriminating against people? (2:1-13)
 - Are you speaking negatively of others (3:1-12) and slandering others? (4:11-2)
 - Are you full of “bitter envy” and “selfish ambition”? (3:13-18)
 - Are you pursuing sinful pleasures? (4:1-3)

Which of these is most helpful to you right now in examining your own heart?

7. How does this text speak of God's desires? How do his desires contrast with our own?
8. What is the difference between self-deprecation and humility? How can we cultivate true humility?
9. How can we "resist the devil"? What resources do we have to do this?
10. What does this text promise for when we take sin seriously? What one step can you take to take sin seriously this week?