

## DISCUSS

- Begin your discussion by sharing a quarrel you got into with a spouse or family member that you now look back on and laugh at.
- James argues that friendship with the world = living as an enemy of God. Is this always the case? Explain.
- According to James in this passage, how can prayer go wrong? How do you think God responds to misguided prayer? What are ways to keep a right focus in prayer?
- Verse 5 has caused even Bible scholars to scratch their head in terms of the original meaning – what is your take?
- The concept of ‘being humble’ can mean different things to different people (v.6). What are your ideas? Share.
- Additionally, read 1 John 1:5-7 & 2:7-12 and discuss how these verses add to the picture of James’ words.

## APPLY

- Let’s get practical: in discussion, share a strategy you could use to resist getting into a quarrel with someone.
- Share ways to pattern your prayers around God’s will rather than a selfish will.
- List together some common worldly pursuits to be on the look out for in terms of them becoming a point of opposition to God’s will for you as a person.

## GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask the Holy Spirit for greater grace to walk according to Jesus’ leading.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see God’s Father heart desire (even jealousy) for you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit where you may have grieved Him.
- Pray for the unity and relationships within Wellspring.

# Making FAITH + WORK

Book of James

# 8

Week 8: A Peaceful Life

Key Text: James 4:1-10

## OPEN

We have been journeying through James now for several weeks and have come to see that this is a small book of the Bible that packs a big punch! This week is no different, as James turns to the topic of quarrelling and what leads to a peaceful life. James begins our passage by acknowledging that we all fall to the temptation to quarrel, which he says, is rooted in the selfish desires we battle within. Without even realizing it, James says, we can be so caught up in a selfish pursuit that it shapes even how we pray – if we even take time to pray. Thankfully, James says, God will keep giving the grace we need to turn and submit our desires and battles to him, which will lead to the promise of a peaceful and godly life.

## REFLECT

- In vv. 1-3, James lists desires that get in the way. What are they? What essentially are their focus?
- In vv. 4-6, what does James say will be the result of befriending (or being at home) with the world? What is God’s feeling toward us about this?
- This passage is written to believers. When we find ourselves out of step, what does God promise (v. 6). What does it say about God’s heart for us? What is grace?
- List the 10 ‘commands,’ or actions, in vv. 7-10 that James lists in his ‘recipe’ for humility before God. Define each.