



James starts chapter four by talking about the war with our personal desires. He addresses how our selfish desires put us in wrong relationship with others and with God. This self-centeredness can lead to fights and quarrels among believers in the local church. However, when we replace selfishness with submission, we get different results. As you answer the questions below, consider how as we submit to God, goodness will follow.

1. Neal shared a story with us from 2012 about two runners. The first-place runner slowed down before crossing the finish line and the second-place runner helped him win the race. What do you think about this act of sportsmanship?
2. **Read James 4:1-3.** James teaches us that the personal wars we face come from personal issues. **Read Psalm 133:1, Colossians 2:2, and John 13:34-35.** What do these passages teach us about being in right relationship with others?
3. **Read James 4:11-12.** James knew that slander was occurring in the church. James is specifically addressing how we treat other Christians in this passage. Come up with five ways that your group can stop talking negatively about people and move to a position of building others up.
4. **Read James 4:3.** James is clear that our personal wars impact our prayer life. **Read Matthew 6:5-15** and talk about what Jesus teaches us a vibrant prayer life.
5. **Read James 4:7-12.** James has a logical progression from submitting to God, drawing near to God, and living a humble life. **Read 1 Peter 2:13, Romans 3:23, and Ephesians 4:2.** Talk about how important the following words are: submit, confess, and humble.
6. Throughout the book of James, we've been encouraged to live a humble life. A humble life is the opposite of a prideful life. **Read Deuteronomy 8:2-3, Psalms 25:9, and Matthew 11:29.** Where is God inviting you to a humble life?
7. **Read James 4:13-17.** James longed for the early church to find the will of God. We long for everyone to do the same. What are some ways this passage teaches us to walk in line with God's
8. Close your time in prayer.