

The Surprising Pathway to Happiness (James 4:1-10)

Real Faith: A Study of James

Discussion Questions

The most recent generations of adults are less happy than previous generations. Why do you think that is?

How would you describe the pathway to happiness that is most commonly embraced by our culture today?

Read James 4:1-10

- What are the two struggles that James calls attention to in verses 1-4, and what causes these struggles?
- How does our “passions” cause us to struggle with conflict in relationships and distance from God?
- Who makes us an enemy of God according to James 4:4?

Read James 4:5-6.

- Verse 5 is one of the most difficult passages in the NT to translate. But based on the English translations you have in group, what do you think it means?
- Verse 6 is filled with encouragement. What’s so encouraging about the verse?
- How do we get more grace in our lives according to verse 6?
- What is humility? (See Matthew 11:29, Matthew 18:4, Luke 8:48, Matthew 20:28)

Read James 4:7-9.

- There are 10 imperatives in these three verses that are intended to call us to a life of humility. Based on these verses, what must we do to “humble ourselves before the Lord?”

Read James 4:10.

- James 4:10 is the key to this passage. In his book, *Humility*, Andrew Murray says that in order to live a life of humility, James 4:10 says we must:
(1) do what God says to do. What is that?
(2) believe what God says he will do: What does God say he will do?