



Message Notes & Life Group Study Guide  
October 20-21, 2018  
Life Hacks: Connecting With God  
Dr. Kurt Bjorklund

**MESSAGE NOTES:**

James 4:7-10

Connecting with God Involves:

1. Surrender Verse 7
2. Nearness Verse 8a
3. Innocence Verse 8b - 10

Avoid this by:

Denial Psalm 32:3

Conceal Psalm 32:5

Delay Psalm 32:6

Penance Psalm 51:16-17

**STUDY GUIDE:**

**Reference:**

Open in prayer and read James 4:7-10.

**Review:**

What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

**Reflect:**

1. James says that our sinful pride and the devil's temptations can cause us to live in a way that brings harm to our relationships with God and others. What process does James lay out in verses 6-10 for how we can see progress in our fight against these enemies?

2. Some commentators say that James 4:7-10 is James' explanation of how to live out the message of Proverbs 3:32-35. How does that Old Testament passage help us further understand what James is teaching in these verses?
  
3. Read verses 9 & 10 again. For you personally, are you more likely to draw near to God in good times or in times of struggle? Why?
  
4. Look at the final word/phrase in verse 10. What do you think it means to be "exalted" (ESV) or "lifted up" (NIV)? How do you see God's grace in this verse?
  
5. Can you share a story of a time in your life when you experienced the words of verse 10 to be true?
  
6. What do verses 11 & 12 have to say about the connection between our humility before God and the way we relate to other people? How is our attitude toward people who frustrate us an indicator of our attitude towards God?

**Respond/Reinforce:**

When it comes to our growth in Christ, we are always a work in progress. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13. Pray that God would grow your humility and love for others in response to his grace.