

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 10/22/2023

### James 4 – Faith. Action. Wisdom.

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Highlights

- James writes about what it means to have faith and put it into action; and what it means to put faith and action together to gain wisdom.
- **v.1-3** “among you” = the church
  - kill/covet – commandments 6 and 10 (See **Exodus 20**)
    - Not really killing, see **Matthew 5:21-22**
  - We don't pray!
    - We don't live a life of prayer. We pray when we think about it.
    - We do our own thing and put prayer into it.
    - Are you in constant contact with the Father?
    - **What would it look like for you to be in constant contact with God?**
  - We pray selfishly. That's why you don't get what you want and that's why we fight.
  - We want what we want when we want it. If God doesn't give it, we take it.
    - **Do you have a it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission in your relationship with God?**
- **v. 4** adultery – commandment 7
  - Friendship with the world means embracing living the way the world lives.
    - It does not mean you can't be friends with people who don't know Jesus.
  - God put His Spirit in us and He jealously wants to interact with us.
    - The conflict between relationship with God and friendship with the world is what causes adultery. It's like we're cheating on God with the world.
    - **How do you cheat on God?**
  - You may be an enemy of God but He still offers you His grace.
  - You may have an enemy, but God still desires that you offer His grace.
    - By offering HIS grace to others, you are letting go of the chains of unforgiveness
    - It's okay to love people from far away.
  - See **Matthew 5:43-45a** Jesus taught the same thing
- **v.7-10** Our faith requires action
  - We have an active role in our faith journey. **What does that look like in your journey. What does it mean to have an active role?**
  - You have the ability and power to resist the devil because the Holy Spirit lives in you.
  - If you're not growing, it's on you, not God. **Are you growing? If not, what are you going to change to have an active role.** It's not about checking off the boxes, it's an active role.
  - God also has an active role (He will come near to you, He will lift you up)
- **v. 11-12** When you kill/covet/commit adultery, you are judging the law. Only God can judge.
  - **Who are you to judge your neighbor?**
- **v. 13-14** What does it mean to be a mist?
  - Mist falls back to the ground, vapor rises
  - Sometimes life is so good we forget how short it really is.
    - It's like it never happened
  - Our lives are a mist, but the decisions we make in the mist are eternal.
    - There are others around us, too, who are in the same situation.

- **v. 15-16** Stop acting like you have your life under control.
  - You don't determine your future
  - Our lives are in His hands.
  - It's okay to plan but you're not in control
  - We make plans but we hold on to our life loosely
    - We have to live differently: one way is generosity with time, resources, etc.
    - Generosity leads us to not hold on too tight.
- **v. 17** If its clear to you and you do it anyway, it's sin.
  - When I sin, it makes me an enemy of God, but God gives us more grace.

### **So what do I do now?**

1. **How's your prayer life?** Is it part of the way you live life?
2. **Have you stopped to consider the grace God extended to you?** See Romans 5:6-8
3. **Who is not receiving the undeserving grace and love that God extended to you?**
  - a. **Who are you not extending grace to even though God is happy to give it to you?**
4. **Are you resisting the devil?**
  - a. **Are you journeying toward Jesus?**
5. **Are you holding onto this world too tightly?**
6. **Are you living generously?**

**As we become fully dependent on the Lord, the way we pray, treat others, see future and give generously will never be the same.**

### **Who does your life belong to? You or Jesus?**