

FAITH + WORKS

JAMES 4:1-12



OPENING

- Find out how the group has responded to Pastor John's challenge (to identify a specific area of life in which God is asking for surrender).

SERMON REVIEW

- The word *submit* tends to make us very uncomfortable.
- Submission isn't slavery, it's surrender! It's yielding and relinquishing rights. And ultimately, it's our choice.
- When we let go, we don't know exactly what will happen next. So this is the question: do you really trust God? Because you won't be able to surrender unless you do.
- When we submit to God, he protects us. That doesn't mean trial and temptation won't come, but that he will guide us through (1 Corinthians 10:13).
- When we submit to God, he draws nears to us. And he'll never leave (Psalm 48:14).
- When we submit to God, he lifts us up. He renews our strength (Isaiah 40:31)!

DISCUSSION

- Read James 4:1-12 in two different translations (NIV and NKJV, for example), then ask the group to retell the passage without looking at the text.
- How does someone choose to befriend the world? And why does that make them an enemy of God?
- James tells us that God "jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us." Explain what that means.
- The end of verse 6 is a quotation of Proverbs 3:34. Read both verses, and discuss what they say about both God and the person that decides to submit to him?
- What do verses 7-10 tell us about being humble before God? How does it inform your understanding of submission and surrender?
- Why do you think James, while encouraging submission to God, tells his audience to resist (not just *avoid*) the devil? How are the two actions connected?
- Again James uses the term "double-minded." What effect does it have in this context?

CHALLENGE

- Be bold enough to surrender the rest of your week to God, and see what happens!
- Continue reading, writing, and memorizing the book of James.

PLAN AHEAD

- Next week's sermon will be based on James 4:13-5:12. Read and pray through it!