

SET FREE FROM JEALOUSY

JAMES 4:1-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Open your group or time alone in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions and Next Steps above, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, look over the three essential questions at the end.

ICEBREAKER (options):

- Whom did you quarrel with most while growing up?
- What purchase is highest on your "wish list"?

1. What is at the root of fights and quarrels? What are the two reasons we don't have what we want? When you fight, do you seek to understand what desire is really motivating you? Where do you need to improve?
2. When disagreements arise, what needs to happen (vv. 2c,7,11)?
3. What "desires" seem to drive the world around us? How are you most likely to become a "friend" of the world?
4. How does following verses 7-10 improve our relationship to God? How does coming near to God strengthen you?
5. Can self-assertiveness and humility co-exist? Where does pride come in?
6. Are Christians supposed to reflect verse 9? When?
7. How could you celebrate the success of others (vv. 11-12) this week?

THREE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. **What do you think?** How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking? What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?
3. **How can you help others in your group?** How can you encourage, affirm, pray for, or keep accountable the commitments they put into practice?

KIDS' GUIDE:

God wants us to be thankful for what we have and to not want what other people have. If someone else has a nice house or cool toys or better clothes or bigger cookies, we shouldn't want what they have. Why do you think God doesn't want us to want what other people have? God wants us to be thankful for what we have. If we don't have the nicest house, we can still be thankful for the house that we do have. If we don't have the best toys or the newest clothes, we can still be thankful for the toys and clothes we do have. If we don't get the biggest cookie, we can still be happy with and thankful for the cookie that we did get.

Pastor David told us in his sermon that when we are not satisfied with what God has given us, or how God has made us, or how God is blessing us...we have jealousy in our lives. God has given us everything we have. Let's be thankful for everything He has given us and not always want what other people have.

What is the cause for most of your fights with your brother, sister or friends? Read James 4:1-3. Why does James say these people were fighting and quarrelling? Why did God choose not to answer their prayers? Read James 3:16-18. Who tempts us to be selfish? James says the reason we fight and quarrel is because we want to have the things others have.

This passage also talks about "gimme-gimme" prayers. "Gimme-gimme" prayers are selfish prayers. It is not good to pray, treating God like He is a vending machine who will give out things just to make us happy. When we ask God for things, we need to ask with the right reasons. If our only motivation for asking God for something is for our own pleasure, we need to rethink our prayer to make sure it is not a "gimme-gimme" prayer.

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Jealousy is often called a BIG GREEN MONSTER. We need to learn to not be jealous of what other people have, but instead to be thankful with what we have. Then we won't be a BIG GREEN MONSTER. Play a game of Monster Tag. One person is "it". This person goes around stomping his feet and acting like a "monster". If he touches another family member, that person then becomes a monster and has to do the same thing. The game ends when everyone is stomping their feet and acting like monsters. In this game, we all became MONSTERS! It can be fun to pretend to be a monster, but in real life, no one wants to be a monster. Jealousy can make us act like monsters. We need to be happy with what we have and not be jealous of what others have. What are some things that you have that you are happy for?