


Week of December 11 - The War Within - Small Group Lesson Lesson 11

## Connect

What would you say is the marker of adulthood - age, mindset, ability or something else? Where does spiritual maturity fit in?

## Verses - James 4:1-10 (CSB)

1 What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you? 2 You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. 5 Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. 7 Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

# Study

1. What is the solution James provides to get what we desire (v.2)? Why is this not always the solution according to v.3? What is the relationship between v.1 and v.3? (James 1:14; Galatians 5:17)

2. What is the contrast to our own pleasure? How are we to find out what the proper reason is to ask? (1 Corinthians 3:16; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Romans 1:9-10, 12:2)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** What are things people tend to ask God for that are driven by their own desires or passions? How can we be sure that something we have asked for is not driven by them? (Psalm 37:4; Psalm 16:11)

🏃 **APPLY 1:** How are we to have friendship with God, and what does that look like in the life of the believer? (v.8)

3. What is the power that causes the devil to flee? What is happening when he is close to us? What can we assume happens when he flees? (Matthew 4:10-11; v.10)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** How do the actions and emotions described in the verses relate? What kind of person is told to have such emotions? Where should they lead such people? (Psalm 126:5-6; Matthew 5:3-8, 2 Chronicles 7:14; v.8)

🏃 **APPLY 2:** What are sources of humility that can help us humble ourselves when pride creeps in? What are some you have personally relied on?

# Share

What are some examples of changes in attitude that indicate spiritual maturity personally in your life? How has your walk with the Lord fostered its growth?

# Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Praise God for an attitude of humility before the Lord.
- Want to teach kids? Contact - sumiko@tokyobaptist.org