

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: *Lord, teach us to pray*

Sermon Title: Humility: The key to receiving God's grace
Passage: James 4:1-10; Matthew 5:3-8

Date: March 1
Message # 9

Think about it

- Who do you respect? (It can be a person living now, or in the past) Why do you respect them?
- In what ways is being a "friend" of this world positive? In what ways might it be negative?
- What causes disagreements between us and our families / friends?
- Why is it so hard to put other's interests ahead of our own?
- What helps you to think of eternal things?

Examine it

James 4:1-10

- Where does James say quarrels and fights come from? (1-2)
- What does James say about prayer and these quarrels? (2-3)
- What does James say about "friendship with the world"? (4-5)
- Where and how does God's grace come in? (5-10)
- What does James call Christians to do? (7-10)

Matthew 5:3-8

- What kind of person(s) is Jesus describing here?
- What are the connections between their character and how God works?

Discuss it

- What do you think about James' discussion of what causes conflict? Agree, or disagree, and why?
- Why is James calling Christians "adulterous people"?
- How do we submit to God and resist the devil?
- What does it look like to practice what James calls us to do in verses 8-11?
- What is Jesus teaching in the Beatitudes? (Matthew 5:3-12)
- What is it to be "poor in spirit"? ...to mourn? ...meek? ...hunger & thirst for righteousness? ...merciful?
- What is it to be "pure in heart"? What keeps us from doing that?
- Humility doesn't mean one is a doormat. What does it mean?

Live it out

- Where does the eternal perspective come in to your life? Is it a regular idea for you, or something that you don't think of much?
- What can you do this week to draw near to God?
- What can we do to grow in humility?
- Is there something / someone that you are in conflict with right now? If so, from this study what do you think God wants you to do about that conflict? (Do you need help from someone – like a friend, or someone on our church's Peacemaking Team?)
- What makes attracts us to pursue things of this world, and makes us hesitate to pursue the things of God?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: 1 John 2:15-17; Daniel 3:16-18; 1 Peter 5:6-11

Next week's passage: 1 Timothy 4:7-10; Isaiah 1:11-20; Matthew 5:23-24