

# faith, hope, love

James 4:1-17  
Inductive Discovery Lesson 6

**Protecting Your Faith** We live in a hazardous world. Daily doses from the media alert us to nearly any peril you can think of. Oil spills and auto recalls. Business scams and chemical bans. Food impurities and homeland security. Airborne disease and identity thieves. We are cautioned to protect our password—read the label—get the vaccine. With so much at stake, it pays to stay alert.

James has some cautionary words for us as well. The world mounts a daily assault on our faith, but we must never aid and abet the enemy by our own actions and attitudes. The formula for protecting our faith is found in this fourth chapter, and it starts in our own heart. Submit to God, resist the devil, cleanse your hands, purify your hearts, humble yourselves.

**1** What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” **7** Submit yourselves therefore 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, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched 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.

**11** Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

**13** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— **14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

**15** Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” **16** As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. **17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

## OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

**Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources** such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow James' train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

## James 4:1-10

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

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Facts from the passage:

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Facts from the passage:

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The lines are light gray and extend across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

This image shows a full page of primary-ruled paper. It features multiple sets of horizontal lines, each set consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement for young learners. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

**“submit”** (vs.7) \_\_\_\_\_

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**“resist”** (vs.7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**“cleanse your hands”** (vs. 8) \_\_\_\_\_

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**“purify your hearts”** (vs.8) \_\_\_\_\_

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**“humble yourselves”** (vs. 10) \_\_\_\_\_

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## INTERPRET

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

## APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

### James 4 :1-10

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

### James 4 :11-12

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

### James 4 :13-17

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

## Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Up close and personal

But He gives more grace.  
Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."  
Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.  
James 4:6-7

### **Memorize** God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

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### **Meditate** on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

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**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

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**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

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**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

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### **Make God's Word Your Prayer**

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

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### **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

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### **Something to Think About . . .**

In every Christian's heart there is a cross and a throne.  
The Christian is on the throne until he puts himself on the cross.  
If he refuses the cross, he remains on the throne.  
Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among believers today.  
We want to be saved, but we insist that Christ do all the dying.

- A.W. Tozer -

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