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LEADER LESSON

JAMES 4:4-6



LEADER TEACHER TIP:

If your group does "highs & lows" (sharing 1 high and 1 low from your week), here are a few suggestions:

1. Rather than sharing "highs & lows" ask your students "Where did you see God show up in your life this past week?"
2. Tell your students "If you dial in and give me your full attention for the next 50 minutes, we will save time at the end for sharing God moments from this past week". Do not take time at the beginning of your night to do this!

INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

PRAY

Open your time in prayer.

CHECKPOINT

Last small group lesson you were challenged to not play favorites by noticing those around you who are overlooked. Who did God help you notice over the last two weeks?? Share how you reached out to them.

ENGAGE

To view the engage video, please see the instructions stored on the back of the TV in your room.

READ JAMES 4:4-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES):

1. In verse 4, what does James say happens when you choose to be a friend of the world?
 - *ANSWER: Being a friend of the world makes you an enemy of God.*
2. What does it mean to be a "friend of the world"? James 4:4
 - *ANSWER: Friendship is fondness. Being a friend of the world means listening to the world and chasing after it. It involves seeking temporary worldly pleasures, treasures, or standards that ultimately leave people empty. Being a friend of the world means placing selfish desires above God's desires. This kind of friendship makes people into God's enemy.*
3. Why is it easy for us to love the world? Explain.
4. According to James, who gets God's grace?
 - *ANSWER: God gives grace to those who are humble, not to those who think they know everything.*
5. In verse 6, why do you think he focuses on humility?
 - *ANSWER: If people aren't humble and don't admit they're wrong, God does not need to give His grace.*
6. Think about social media like TikTok and Instagram. What kind of messages are they sending about what you need to do to be liked or accepted? How does that match or clash with what the Bible teaches?
7. After everything you have studied tonight, how would you answer the question, whose friend are you - God's or the world's?

CHECKPOINT CHALLENGE... how to apply this (10 MINUTES):

- This week, pay attention to when you seek approval or praise from others, like wanting to be noticed for your actions or achievements. Write down these moments. Then, write a prayer asking God to help you focus on being humble and loving towards others instead of seeking attention.
- Pause and make a mental note of when you feel the devil is tempting you to be a friend of the world instead of God's friend. Ask God to help you resist the devil. Journal how it turns out.

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA (10 MINUTES):

Leader writes down all the prayer requests from each student and assigns each student to pray out loud over 1 of the prayer requests. Students are encouraged to continue praying over their assigned prayer request during the upcoming week.

DIVE DEEPER

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO DIVE DEEPER AFTER TONIGHT

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 5:5
Matthew 12:39, 40
Timothy 3:1-5
1 John 2:15
John 17
Ephesians 6