

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ANGER

*James 4:1-10*

### INTRODUCTION

James 4:1-10 addresses the issue of conflict and strife arising from human desires and ambitions. It highlights the danger of pursuing our own kingdoms—our desires, wants, agendas, goals, and preferences—over God's kingdom. This passage challenges us to submit to God and seek His will in all aspects of our lives, warning us that man's anger often stems from a misplaced focus on self rather than on God.

### THIS WEEK:

This week, we want to discover the truth behind our anger, and how God wants to use it to identify the areas in our lives that we are still not yet yielding to the lordship of Christ.

### OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading James 4:1-10 and then answering the following questions:

1. What does James identify as the source of quarrels and conflicts among people (James 4:1)?
2. According to James, what happens when people do not get what they want (James 4:2)?
3. How does James describe friendship with the world (James 4:4)?
4. What does James say God does to the proud (James 4:6)?

## **INTERPRETATION** *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. Jesus makes a statement in Matt. 6:33 that could be phrased into a person's life purpose statement. How would you phrase such a statement?
6. How does what James say in James 1:20 and 4:1 relate to what his brother said in Matt. 6:33?
7. Compare James 4:4 with 1 John 2:15-17. What are the implications of what God is saying about man centered anger in these verses?
8. How does James' command to resist the devil in James 4:7 relate to Ephesians 6:10-11?

## **APPLICATION** *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. In what ways does the type of anger we express betray the condition of our heart?
10. What types of man-centered anger do think people are tempted to justify the most?
11. How can you identify areas in your life where you might be seeking your desires over God's will?

12. How can understanding the root of your anger help you respond more appropriately in conflicts?

**TAKE AWAY** *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?

14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?

**Have your kids do the word find puzzle on the next page or read to them James 4:1-10. Use the following questions to have a discussion about how God knows our secret desires and actions.**

1. What does James say causes fights and quarrels among people? (James 4:1)

Suggested Answer: James says that fights and quarrels come from the desires that battle within us.

2. What happens when we ask for things with the wrong motives? (James 4:3)

Suggested Answer: When we ask for things with the wrong motives, we don't receive them because we are asking selfishly.

3. What does James tell us to do so that God will lift us up? (James 4:10)

Suggested Answer: James tells us to humble ourselves before the Lord, and He will lift us up.

4. Why does James say friendship with the world is like being an enemy of God? (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)

Suggested Answer: James says that friendship with the world means we are choosing worldly desires over God's desires, which makes us an enemy of God. 1 John 2:15-17 also tells us not to love the world or anything in it.

5. What does James mean when he says "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble"? (James 4:6; Proverbs 3:34)

Suggested Answer: It means that God does not like it when we are proud and think we know better, but He is kind and helps those who are humble and admit they need Him. Proverbs 3:34 says the same thing.

6. What does it mean to submit ourselves to God? (James 4:7; Romans 12:1-2)

Suggested Answer: Submitting ourselves to God means we give our lives to Him and follow His ways instead of our own. Romans 12:1-2 tells us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to God and not to follow the ways of the world.

7. Can you think of a time when you were angry because you didn't get your way? How could you have handled it differently by thinking about what God wants?

Suggested Answer: (Child's personal reflection) They might share a story and then discuss how they could have prayed and asked God to help them handle their anger.

8. What are some ways you can resist the devil and make him flee from you, as James says in verse 7?

Suggested Answer: (Child's personal reflection) They could mention praying, reading the Bible, and asking God for strength to do the right thing.

9. How can you show that you are drawing near to God this week? What are some things you can do?

Suggested Answer: (Child's personal reflection) They might talk about spending time in prayer, reading the Bible, going to church, or being kind to others.

# WORD FIND

James 4:1-10

S O F G U G B G C O M E B  
C O V E T H E R E F O R E  
V A M F C D C A O R U F C  
D W A H A E A C D I R F O  
U O U U N S U E F E N I M  
U R F M N I S G F N H G E  
P L M B O R E M M D G H S  
A D U L T E R O U S O T A  
S R R E S I S T N H B C Y  
S A D H O S T I L I T Y S  
I W E N E M Y V M P A L Y  
O A R W F R I E N D I S N  
N G R G I V E S L K N O W  
S E D H C S D T B B E F B

What is the source of wars and **fights** among you? Don't they **come** from your **passions** that **wage** war within you? 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. You ask and don't receive **because** you ask with wrong **motives**, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 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. Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture **says**: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely? But he **gives** greater **grace**. **Therefore** he **says**: God **resists** the proud but **gives grace** to the **humble**. **Therefore**, submit to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you. **Draw** near to God, and he will **draw** near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and **mourn** and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.