

- James states that where there is envy and selfish ambition you will find disorder and every evil practice. What are some of the outward demonstrations of a heart filled with envy and selfish ambition?
- According to vs 13 & 17, what are the marks of godly wisdom? What do you think these look like in practice? On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is 'needs work' and 5 is 'doing well') assess how you are doing in the following areas mentioned in v17:

Integrity	Harmony	Consideration
Being open to reason	Forgiving	Impartial

- How do we attain greater wisdom in our lives (James 1v5 and Colossians 2v3)?



CARING & SERVING. Take time catching up on each others lives – perhaps there were things before Christmas that you had been seeking prayer for – give a little update if appropriate. Perhaps there is an area of your life where great wisdom from God is required – in the context of a relationship, or in the context of being able to trust



God's wisdom as you go through a trial, or wisdom for some other situation. Pray that each of us would be filled with the wisdom of God, the mind of Christ. Perhaps you might want to learn or type out James 3v17 and post it somewhere around your home to remind you of it!



ENGAGING. Just an update on the money we raised for the Bible Society – our target was to raise £350 to supply the paper to print 600 Bibles for Christians in China. Thanks to your generosity the final total was £970!!! This has been forwarded to the Bible Society who will pass it on £700 to Amity Press, the printing company which produces Bibles in China. The other £270 is being used to provide Bibles for people in Iraq.

Alpha – commences tomorrow (31<sup>st</sup>). Please pray for Alpha, that people would come and that the Holy Spirit would be at work. Still time to bring someone along!

## Midweek ministry @ Ballyloughan

worshipping, growing, caring, serving, engaging

James: A down-to-earth faith  
8 - How to avoid arguments (4:1-10)  
Guide for Small Groups 6<sup>th</sup> February

Hi everyone! As you know, unfortunately last Wednesday's teaching night had to be cancelled due to me picking up some kind of bug. I had planned to teach last Wednesday on James 4: 1-12 under the heading, 'The Heart of the Matter.' What I've done for tonight is given each group a copy of some DVD teaching material by Rick Warren (author of the Purpose Driven Life) on the book of James. He teaches this passage under the heading, 'How to avoid arguments.' Ok, so he's a bit American and I think the passage is saying much more than just how to avoid arguments, but I trust you'll benefit from his teaching for one night only! Watch the teaching DVD and then do what follow-up material you have time to do.

### I. The cause of all arguments is \_\_\_\_\_.

*"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" James 4:1*

Three basic desires that cause arguments:

(i) The desire \_\_\_\_\_. (Possessions)

*"You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want." James 4:2*

(ii) The desire \_\_\_\_\_. (Pleasure)

*"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3*

(iii) The desire \_\_\_\_\_. (Pride or Power)

*"pride leads to arguments; be humble, take advice, and become wise." Prov. 13:10 (LB)*

**II. The cure for arguments is \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“But he gives more grace. That is why the Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you...Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” James 4: 6-8, 10*

Steps to defusing conflict

§ \_\_\_\_\_

*“Submit yourselves, then, to God.” James 4:7a*

§ \_\_\_\_\_

*“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7b*

*“In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” 2 Corinthians 2:11*

§ \_\_\_\_\_

*“Come near to God and he will come near to you.” James 4:8a*

*“He will keep in perfect peace all those who trust in him, whose thoughts turn often to the Lord.” Isaiah 26:3 (LB)*

§ \_\_\_\_\_

*“Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts....” James 4:8b*

**Please do not feel that you have to stick rigidly to this material!**

WORSHIPPING.



James 4v6 tells us that “He [God] gives us more grace.” James says these words in the context of talking about how sinful we are as people, how double-minded we often are. Yet he says, ‘God gives us more grace.’ ‘Grace’ in the Bible is not only God giving us the forgiveness and life with Him which we don’t deserve, ‘grace’ also refers to God’s power to change when we can’t do things on our own. In other words, James says here that God is tirelessly on our side. His patience is never exhausted, His generosity knows no limit, His initiative never stops, His resources are never limited. Spend some time praising God for His inexhaustible grace.

GROWING



- Why is it important to begin in verse 1 with the core of all arguments? How do the issues we are battling in our hearts spill over into our actions and then into our relationships?
- James talks about wisdom again here in 3:13-18. What does the context of these verses (situated between 3:1-12 and 4:1-12) indicate we also need wisdom for?
- Briefly share about someone you know who is wise in the way he or she relates to people. What is it about this person that convinces you he or she is wise?
- According to v14 what characteristics mark the person who is not led by godly wisdom but are instead governed by ‘earthly’ wisdom? Can you give examples of how you see this ‘earthly’ wisdom being played out in practice?