



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for August 24, 2008

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"Live Godly Lives"

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: James 4:1-17

DEVOTIONAL READING: Proverbs 3:13-18

MEMORY VERSE: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: (James 4:1-12)

1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help each student know things he can do to live a godly life.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. It is sin to live only for myself and not obey God.
2. I must do what pleases God if I want to live a godly life.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Helping to Remember, cut a large heart out of 8-by-8-inch card stock for each student. Bring markers, a paper punch, and ribbon.

You will also need a copy of the lesson activity, at the end of this summary, for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Tell the following story to your young students to begin the lesson and then discuss:

"Give me that truck," Howard said menacingly to his brother. "If you do not give it to me right away, I am going to smash your blue car."

"If you do," yelled Ricky, "you will really be sorry! You will never see this truck again."

As Howard stomped out of the room, he muttered, "I will show you! Just wait!"

Do these boys sound like brothers who love each other? Do their words and actions show that they love God? In today's lesson we learn about Christians who were fighting with each other.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Time: about A.D. 45

Place: from Jerusalem

James 4 is a very practical chapter for all believers. The Christians that James wrote to were fighting and quarreling among themselves, all the while justifying their actions and words.

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes," says Proverbs 21:2. "But the Lord pondereth the hearts," concludes the verse. God's perusal of their hearts revealed that the believers were full of self, envy, and covetousness. God charged these Christians with killing one another. Christ's words in Matthew 5:21-22 give further light on this matter.

The Holy Spirit of God lives within each believer. If our heart's desire and our life's direction are just to have what we want, to be accepted by those around us, and to enjoy life's pleasures, we are the enemies of God. Study Jesus' prayer in John 17.

The instructions given in James 4:7-11 are ones children can obey in order to live godly lives.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students:

SELFISH DESIRES:

Look at the first verse in James 4. (Help students find this.) James asked a question. Why do Christians fight with each other?

How can people who have been forgiven of their sins by God be unkind and hateful to one another?

Sometimes Christians speak and act just as Howard and Ricky did. They say hateful words that sound as if they are trying to kill one another. This does not mean that one is murdering the other by stabbing him with a knife. However, Jesus said that when we hate another person, it is like committing murder. It is sin.

We fight with another person because we love ourselves. (Show "Self Life" side of visual.) We want to have what we want. Often we envy someone—we want to have what he has. We are jealous and will do anything to get it. We think evil thoughts and say wicked words.

Living for ourselves and trying only to get what we want is sin. God will not answer selfish prayers. If we choose to be like the sinful world around us, we become enemies of God. Our lives will be full of sin.

Pride is a terrible sin. God is the enemy of people who think they can do what they want and not obey Him.

The Holy Spirit lives inside each believer. He longs for us to live godly lives. He will help us.

SUBMISSION TO GOD:

Do you want to please God? James told us how to live our lives so that they show that we love God. (Draw a large black X through "Self Life." Turn to "Godly Life" side of visual.)

First we must submit ourselves to God. We must do what He tells us. When we refuse to sin, the devil runs away. God helps us do right.

James told believers to get close to God. One way we do this is by reading the Bible. Memorizing verses keeps God's Word in our thoughts. When we pray, we talk with God. As we draw close to God, He draws close to us. He loves us and helps us live godly lives.

What else can Christians do? Stay clean from sin. Do what is right. Choose to love and honor God always. If you sin, ask Him to forgive you.

James told us to be humble before God. When we know how great and holy He is, we should feel weak and humble. We are sinful and small compared to God. If we love and obey Him, He will lift us up and help us.

Christians should speak kindly of each other. When we love one another, we show unsaved people that we truly do love God. If we fight and quarrel with other believers, we show that we do not love God.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

You have heard the saying that if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it must be a duck. Perhaps that is not always true, but you must agree that we often identify things by appearances. The Bible says that Christians are identified by how we walk and talk. If a person does not walk like a Christian and talk like a Christian, he must not be a Christian.

Christians should behave in a godly manner. The Bible is specific about what that godly manner entails. Our godly behavior shows Christ to a lost world. Can others see Christ in you?

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Each student should write "Self Life" on one side of the heart in bold, black letters. On the other side he should write "Godly Life" in bold color. On each side have the students draw a picture showing an example of that kind of life. Ask the students to make an X through the side that does not please God. Punch a hole in the top, and thread a ribbon through to use for hanging.

Each student should complete the lesson activity at the end of this summary.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8)

If we draw close to God by reading the Bible, praying, and doing what He tells us to do, God will draw close to us. He will help us to live godly lives and to do what pleases Him. This is God's promise to those who love and obey Him.

PRAYER:

Dear God, help us to draw close to you. Thank you for helping us to obey your Word and do what is right each day. In Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "**Pray Always**" and encourages us to pray to God at all times.
Read James 5:1-20.

Lesson Summarized by:

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LESSON ACTIVITY:

Live Godly Lives (James 4:1-12)

1. James wanted to know why the Christians were _____ with each other (James 4:1)
2. If you are a _____ of the world, then you are an enemy of God (James 4:4).
3. God gives _____ to the _____ (James 4:6)
4. We should _____ ourselves unto God (James 4:7).
5. If we resist the _____, he will flee from us (James 4:7).
6. When we _____ close to God, He will draw close to us (James 4:8).
7. If we humble ourselves in God's sight, he shall _____ us up (James 4:10).
8. We should not speak _____ of each other (James 4:11).
9. If we judge the law, we are not a _____ of the law (James 4:11).
10. There is one lawgiver who is able to _____ and to _____ (James 4:12).

Word Bank:

evil friend fighting doer

submit destroy lift humble

grace devil draw save

Answer Key to Lesson Activity
Live Godly Lives (James 4:1-12)

- 1 - fighting
- 2 - friend
- 3 - grace, humble
- 4 - submit
- 5 - devil
- 6 - draw
- 7 - lift
- 8 - evil
- 9 - doer
- 10 - save, destroy