

Leader Guide Session 8

Leader Notes:

If you feel as though you are entitled, you grow not in gratitude and gladness but contempt.

Rich, good friendship is fought for, it's restrictive, and it invites in critique.

God is not jealous about you; He is jealous for you, for His own glory.

The Lord is jealous for us to experience the fullest joy possible, made manifest only in knowing, loving, and following Him.

There is no sin with more power than the cross of Christ.

HOW DO YOU SUBMIT?

1. Resist the devil.
2. Draw near to God.
3. Be serious about sin.

Because the Holy Spirit is inside me, I don't have to sin anymore. I resist, and God is faithful to make a way out.

We don't read the Bible for facts and figures. We read the Bible to gaze upon the beauty of God.

We are refined best in the furnace of community.

Our watchfulness and seriousness about sin is not just about our actions but about our desires.

It's in our brokenness over our sin that the forgiveness and grace of this jealous God who gives more grace launches us into an orbit of joy.

It's by our love for one another that Christ is most visibly seen, savored, and worshiped.

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer
James@jcpineville.com
www.jcpineville.com



Discussion:

1) Read James 4:1-6. When we get into an argument with someone, our tendency is often to blame the person we're arguing with before examining our own hearts.

The way we view the world causes us to grow in one of two ways:

- Gladness and gratitude
- Entitlement and contempt
- Of the two ways people grow, which way are you growing?
- What circumstances in life lead you to feel most entitled? Why should you find satisfaction in God regardless of your circumstances?

2) When we learn to spot God's goodness in our lives, it leads to an ever-increasing sense of gladness and gratitude. As joy and satisfaction begin to grow in our lives, we learn to appreciate God's work regardless of our circumstances. In contrast, if we feel that God owes us something, instead of growing in gladness and gratitude, we'll grow in contempt. The only thing we deserve from God is death and eternal punishment, but by His grace, He has given us life.

- How can social media feed our entitlement and ungratefulness?
- How can real friendship-which Matt described as rich; good; fought-for; restrictive; and inviting critique, both with God and with others-keep us from entitlement and worldliness?

3) Read James 4:7-9. What three actions for submitting to God are commanded in these verses?

A) Resist the devil (see v. 7)

- What does it look like in practical terms to resist the devil?
- How are you establishing support systems and accountability to help you resist spiritual attack and temptation?
- What has proved most effective in helping you resist temptation at different times in your life?

B) Pursue God (see v. 8)

- What does it mean to draw near to God?
- For Him to draw near to you?

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



- What practical steps do you currently take to structure your day or week in order to pursue God?
 - What has proved most effective in helping you grow in your love for God?
- C) Take sin seriously (see vv. 8-9; also see vv. 1-6,10-12)
- In what ways were you convicted and encouraged by the previous group session's time of confession and prayer?
 - Did it encourage you to mourn sin and humble you before God and your brothers and sisters in Christ this week?
 - What remaining questions or comments do you have about the video teaching or discussion?
 - What was challenging, convicting, encouraging, or timely for your current circumstances?

Close in prayer.

PRAYER REQUEST