

**Dig Deeper @Home – “I Pledge Allegiance ...”
Complement to lesson on 05/09/21 – “To God over Pride”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Share a time when pride got the best of you.
2. What is your favorite sound?

MEMORIZE – James 3: 17-18

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

READ James 4

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
2. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
3. What can we learn about either God or the state of humanity through this passage?
4. As followers of Jesus, we can become very focused on sins of commission, meaning sins that we commit. But read again 4:17.
 - a. What is James calling followers to evaluate?
 - b. What sins of omission is the Holy Spirit telling you to turn from? In other words, what commands do you need to start living out in your daily life?
5. In James 4:16 it says “all such boasting is evil.”
 - a. What kind of boasting is he referring to?
 - b. Why is it evil?
 - c. How does this connect to the boasting referred to in James 3:14?

Experiential activity –

According to James, we want things but don't get them because we don't ask for them. Then, when we do ask for them, we don't receive what we ask for because we ask wrongly, wanting to spend what we get on our own passions. Assuming this is true, take time and look into your own life.

1. First, what are you asking for? Do you turn to our Heavenly Father and ask for things?
2. Second, why are you asking for this? Is it to spend on your own passions?

What are we to do when we find that indeed, we ask in order to spend on our own passions? Well, James tells us: submit to God (4:7) and draw near to God (4:8). So spend time doing these things. While spending time with our Creator, tell Him the things you want and listen for His response. Ask Him to change your reasons for asking, not to spend on your passions but on His glory and the good of others.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mECQOt2z7mw>

Boldly I Approach - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx94Fg4qZr8>

O Praise Ye the Lord - (Mennonite Hymnal #596)

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Go from this place and be doers of God's word who accompany their faith with actions. Draw near to God each day and surrender to His will by living out His ways in the places you live, work and play.