

# JAMES

MARK IT UP

## James 4:1-3 Discussion Guide

Week of 4/24/22

**Icebreaker:** Where do you see hostility or quarrels in our society today?  
What do you think causes it?

**Getting Started:** Read James 4:1-3 as a group.

**1.** According to James, what was causing fights and quarrels among the believers he was addressing?

*Application:* Passion and desire are not necessarily wrong. From your experience, what makes a passion or desire a source of conflict with others? How have you seen this happen in the church?

**2.** In verse 2, James uses the words, “murder,” “fight,” and “quarrel” to describe the fruit of these misguided passions and desires. These could be taken literally, but likely are figurative. What can we learn from Matthew 5:21-22 about the connection between anger, words, and murder?

*Application:* If actual murder is the unjust taking of another’s life, how can our words cause similar damage and call for a similar consequence?

**3.** At the end of verse 2, James says to his listeners that “You do not have, because you do not ask.” Why is it a problem that these believers are deeply desiring things but they’re not asking God?

*Application:* The issue this verse raises should make us think of our own prayer life. One of Calvary’s *Shaping Values* is “Prayer in Faith.” How could our prayer life reveal whether we’re walking by faith, trusting God to supply what we need?

**4.** Right after James has addressed their lack of asking, he notes in verse 3 that when they do ask, they “ask wrongly, to spend it on [their] own passions.” What’s the problem with self-centered prayer?

*Application:* Think about the things you’ve been asking God for in prayer recently. How consistent do you think they are with seeking first God’s kingdom and righteousness?

**5.** Read Matthew 6:5-15. What do you see in these words from Jesus that help reinforce the value of prioritizing God's kingdom and his righteousness over material needs?

*Application:* How does this attitude toward and practice of prayer help guard us against the kind of quarrels, fights, and passions that James confronts in 4:1-3?