

# Studies in James

## Study five

**Key verse:** James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Kick Off



**Big Idea:** Humility is the starting point in being of service to the Lord's cause.

Discuss humility. What is it and do we need it? Why?



### STUDY

Read James 4:1-17.

*This chapter is a serious rebuke of Christians living badly. Notice how direct James is in his language of rebuke but also notice how pastoral he is in his speech. In one sentence they are 'adulterous people' and in the next 'brothers'.*

1. Do you think James is being literal in his accusations of these Christians in vv1 and 2?

What reason does James give as to why there was such hostility in the church?

2. How were the Christians praying and why was it wrong?

What is the point of prayer if it is not to get things from God?

3. How would you explain James' use of the word 'world' in v4?

4. How is it possible that slander and evil words against brothers are actually us speaking against the law and judging it v 11?

What is the big point of v12 in relation to our judging others?

James has used very strong words against his brothers in v4, how come he is not guilty according to the teaching of v11 and v12?

5. What attitude is James strongly against in vv 13-14?

Is it wrong to make plans and aim to carry on good business deals? Explain.

How does pointing out how fleeting and feeble we are strengthen James' argument against boasting about business deals?

How does saying 'Lord willing' change everything for us in relation to our plans?

Why is it most important to apply v 17 in relation to business practices?

6. In a world that pushes us to promote ourselves, what is the Christian way to success v6 and 10?

7. Quote, *"The essence of unbelief is a failure to submit"* do you agree, v7a?

8. Discuss the two promises we have in vv7 and 8. Have you put these promises into practice and experienced the fruit of doing so? Share your experiences.

9. How long do you think James would like his congregation to practice vv8b-9?

Is this a connection with this behaviour and the mirror illustration in James 1:23-24?

## THINK AND APPLY

Is humility something we do or something the Lord does in us?

Are there people you need to ask forgiveness of in relation to your words?

Do you love this world too much and if so what can you do about it?

## PRAYER

**What can you pray about arising from this study?**



**For next week  
Read  
James 5:1-20**