



Faith Bible Study Guide: Week of September 19, 2021
Doers of the Word: Root in Conflict, Sowing Peace
Group or Individual Study guide

Be still [2 Minutes]

Greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence to allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit. Open in Prayer.

Be present:

1. Take a deep breath. How is it with your soul?

2. Play this quick game:

What is better? Fruit or ice cream? New Testament or Old Testament? Getting up early or sleeping in? Cars or trucks? iPhone or Android? Basketball or football?

What is easier? Math or science? Reading or writing? Drawing or painting?

Who is more fun? Moms or dads? New friends or older friends? Coaches or teachers? School cafeteria workers or school janitors?

Be rooted: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (NRSV)

Two Kinds of Wisdom

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. **14** But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. **15** Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. **16** For

where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. **18** Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Submit Yourselves to God

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. **3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

4 *You adulterous people,^[a] don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.* **5** *Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us^[a]?* **6** *But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:*

*"God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble."^[c]*

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1. What is your understanding of peace?
2. How are envy and selfish ambition at odds with order, peace, and mercy (James 3:14-18)?
3. Rev. Allison spoke of wisdom in her Children's message, how does James 3:13-16 differentiate types of wisdom? What suggestions does this section give us, along with verses 17 and 18, about how to interact with others?
4. What are some good ways to handle conflict? What are some not-so-good ways to handle conflict?
5. Is it possible to have good conflict? Explain your reasoning.
6. Where does it say anger and conflict come from-- in verse 15? In your personal experience, where do anger and conflict come from?
7. What does it mean to "submit yourselves to God" (James 4:7?) And how is that the same as or different from the phrase "draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" in James 4:8?

Be transformed:

1. How can we draw closer to God this week? Make a list on a piece of paper and

commit to one way of drawing closer to God this week.

Be blessed: How has this conversation blessed you today?

And Know that He is God: Gather any prayer requests and pray together.