

NOTES & QUESTIONS

UPROOT SELFISHNESS

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JAMES 4:1-6

Introduction

1. Stimulates _____

2. Creates _____ with Others

3. Alienates _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. The sermon defines selfishness as: "an excessive concern (or preoccupation) with getting what you want." Is getting what you want always a bad pursuit? What would make it bad?
2. Read James 4:1, 2. Why do you think James begins his teaching on selfishness with two questions? Besides "desires/desire," what other two words in these verses convey the same idea?
3. What do you tend to binge on? What's behind your (or others') bingeing? What are the dangers of bingeing?
4. Read Mark 4:18, 19. What do the thorns (i.e., weeds) in Jesus' parable of the soils represent? How do the things you binge on choke out your spiritual life?
5. Reread James 4:1, 2. What causes us to quarrel and fight with others? Give an example (or two) from your own life where a conflict developed with someone who stood in the way of you getting what you wanted.
6. What does James suggest we should do (hinted at in v.2b) when others keep us from getting what we want? What does God love to do, according to James 1:17. In the context of that verse, James is talking about resisting temptation. How does recognizing God as the Giver of good gifts help us in tempting situations?
7. Read James 4:3. When we ask God for what we want, why won't he always give it according to this verse? What other reasons can you think of as to why God doesn't always give us what we want?
8. Read James 4:4-6. Why does James call his readers adulterous? What's the difference between a good "friendship with the world" and a bad "friendship with the world"?
9. Why does God get jealous? What activity/priority in your life might make God jealous?
10. This sermon is titled "Uproot Selfishness." From what you've learned from James 4:1-6, what might be some practical steps for uprooting selfishness in your life? What is your best takeaway from this sermon?