

James 4:1-10
International Bible Lesson Study Hints
for Discussion and Thinking Further

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. What is one cause of troubles in the church?

Some people bring “this world’s” passions and evil desires into the church with them, and these passions and desires stir up a war within them and with others.

2. Why can coveting lead to fighting and quarrelling?

It is fine to desire a good thing similar to what someone else has and use lawful means to acquire that good thing (perhaps buying it or buying something like it). Coveting involves wanting something that someone else has, perhaps because there is no one or nothing similar, and thinking of unlawful means of having it. Coveting can lead to murder and theft.

3. Why doesn't God give us everything we ask?

Not everything is good for us to have. God will not give us bad things (or perhaps even good things) just to satisfy our selfish, self-centered desires. God will not give us what would hurt us and/or others. God might give us something to teach us a lesson that we truly need to learn.

4. What does a friend of the world make himself?

An enemy of God.

5. What does James tell sinners inside and outside the church to do?

(James 4:7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:8) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:9) Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

(James 4:10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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