# 11 -WEEK STUDY IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

WEEK 8

"Grace"

James 4:1-6



### WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: James 4:1-6 Secondary text from this week: Hosea 1-3

**Bonus Reading from this week:** Jeremiah 3 and Ezekiel 16 (warning: graphic)

## **GETTING STARTED**

Goals for this session: To understand what James tells us about our priorities and about God's grace

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

**Break the Ice:** When you were growing up, who did you fight with the most?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. **James 4:1-2** explains why we fight and quarrel. Do you agree with James? What are some other reasons we fight and quarrel?
- 2. In **James 4:3**, James reveals that we often come to God with false motives. What do you think are some of the wrong motives that often drive our prayers?
- 3. When you read **James 4:4**, what comes to mind? Is this a hard passage for you to read? Why or why not?
- 4. Of all the ways for the Biblical authors to illustrate mankind's unfaithfulness to God, why do you think they so often chose this adultery metaphor?
- 5. Summarize the story of Hosea and Gomer that Pastor Doug shared (**Hosea 1-3**). Read God's words of restoration in **Hosea 2:23**. What does this reveal to us about God?
- 6. Much of James theology echoes the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount found in **Matthew 5-7**. Read Jesus' words in **Matthew 6:24** and compare it to what we've studied in **James 4**. What do you notice?
- 7. Mercy is often described as "not getting what we deserve," while grace is described as "getting what we don't deserve." Why is **James 4:6** such an important reminder for Christians?
- 8. What was one thing we haven't discussed that resonated with you as you listened to Pastor Doug's message?



# PRAY

**Pray for each other:** Pray that each member of the group would experience God's grace in a powerful and intimate way this week.

**Pray on your own:** Pray that God would show you areas of your life that threaten to "climb the ladder" of your heart and replace God.

# **ACTION STEPS**

Go to **venturamissionary.com** and take advantage of the daily and weekly resources.

- 1. Identify something in your life that constantly tries to climb the ladder of your heart.
- 2. Fast from something that's connected to that area of your life and replace it with quality time with God.

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