
7 Makers and Breakers of Peace

James 3:13–4:10

Why do people who love each other the most often fight the most too? Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters—it's all too common. James offers a valuable remedy for this sickness.

1. Does your family ever quarrel? Why do these fights and arguments erupt?

2. Read James 3:13–4:10. In 3:13-18 James discusses earthly and heavenly wisdom. What are the characteristics of each?

3. How might earthly wisdom provoke fights and quarrels?

4. How might wisdom from heaven help us resolve conflicts we face?

5. What does James say is the source of quarrels (4:1-2)?

6. In Buddhist philosophy, desire is said to be the source of all suffering. To combat suffering we should simply stop desiring. In contrast, how does James say we should deal with our desires (vv. 2-3)?

7. Why do we often fail to ask God for what we want?

8. James says we don't receive even when we ask because we ask with wrong motives (v. 3). What might be some examples of right and wrong motives in prayer?

9. What else does James say is necessary in order to come to God in prayer (vv. 4-10)?

10. What does it mean to be humble, to submit to God (vv. 6-7)?

11. In verses 7-10 James gives several suggestions for humbling ourselves before God. How does each contribute to a humble spirit?

12. Are there situations where humility could help you become a source of peace this coming week? Explain.

13. Take a few minutes to quietly humble yourself before God. Ask him to help you become a peacemaker during the next several days.