

*Following Jesus By Breaking Worldly Friendships*  
**James 4:1-10**

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God desires a close and intimate relationship with us. He also desires that we experience close relationships with one another. When we our allegiances are more in line with the world than with God conflict arises in both, but there is a cure!

**Cause of Conflict**

•**Being a friend of the world leads to** \_\_\_\_\_.

*“What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?” James 4:1 (NLT)*

•**Being a friend of the world leads to** \_\_\_\_\_.

*“You want what you don’t have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can’t get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it.” James 4:2 (NLT)*

**Consequence of Conflict**

•**Being a friend of the world leads to** \_\_\_\_\_.

*“And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God.” James 4:3-4 (NLT)*

•**Being a friend of the world puts us in** \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:5-6 (NLT)*

**The Cure For Conflict**

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- \_\_\_\_\_ **to God.**

*“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (NLT)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **to God.**

*“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” James 4:8a (NLT)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **yourself before God.**

*“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.” James 4:10 (NLT)*

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. In James 4:1 we are told that it is the evil desires at war within us that cause the conflicts between one another. Share some of the inner battles you have struggled with and how you have overcome them. If you are currently struggling, share your struggle and spend time praying for one another.
2. Read James 4:3-4. A friend of the world is one who prays with wrong motives. If we believe that God does not exist for us, rather we exist for God, how does this change the way we pray?
3. Read Exodus 20:5a. Discuss your feelings about God being a jealous God. What does that tell you about His feelings for and about you?
4. Discuss each of the three Cures For Conflict. Are any of them more difficult for you than the others?
5. What steps can you take this week to bring an end to any conflict either with a person or with God? What can you as a Life Group do to prevent worldly friendships?

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