

A **#Hack4Faith** Discussion-based Study for Groups and/or Individual Enrichment
The Letter of James

"Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete lacking nothing." James 1:4

Discussion Seven: *Genuine in Relationships*, James 4:1-12.

Key Phrase: *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."* James 4:10

1. Discussion Scenario:

- a. Someone once quipped, "If I didn't have to deal with people life would be great!" Well, life is made up of dealing with others – and some of the most trying are those closest to us. But not only do we have the "horizontal" relationship with people, we have a "vertical" relationship with God to be considered. The focus on one axis over the other has a direct impact on the other – which relationship we prioritize is our moment-by-moment challenge.

2. Right relationships:

- a. Read James 4:1-12, [James 4:1-12 NIV - Submit Yourselves to God - What causes - Bible Gateway](#).

3. Digging in:

- a. Verses 1-3:
 - i. List all the words that "pop-out" to you in this passage.
 - ii. What "cause and effects" do you see James communicating here?
- b. Verses 4-6:
 - i. What do you identify as the problem in these verses?
 - ii. What does James propose as the solution?
- c. Verses 7-10:
 - i. The principle of "Submission and Resistance" provides the one-two punch in defeating the enemy. First, let's look at the premier example for this principle in action. Read Matthew 4:1-11 [Matthew 4:1-11 NIV - Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness - Bible Gateway](#).
 1. From Jesus' example in these Matthew 4 verses, what practical guidance/steps do you see for defeating temptation?
 2. James calls out "submission **and** resistance." Do you see a weakness if we are to only do one without the other?
 3. List any questions you'd like to discuss with the group.

d. Verses 11-12:

- i. What is the core takeaway for you from James' call here to brothers and sisters – those fellow believers we have a relationship with?

e. Overall:

- i. From this overall passage, James 4:1-12, and considering that it speaks to both our “horizontal” (people) and “vertical” (God) relationships, what practical ways do you see that James gives us to experience both at their best?
 1. Horizontal (people)
 2. Vertical (God)

4. Bringing it home:

- a. What are your key takeaways from this study/discussion? List up to 3 and be prepared to share at least one.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
- b. Being “genuine in relationships” -- what two actions can you take this week?
 - i.
 - ii.
- c. Write a short prayer to your Lord Jesus Christ regarding being genuine in relationships and growing in them.

Acknowledgement: Some of the content in this study was inspired by William Barclay (1976). *The Daily Study Bible Series, Revised Edition, The Letter of James and Peter*. The Westminster Press.