

# Coffee Talk

Week Six

James chapter Four

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*



# Welcome!

We're glad you're here. Coffee Talk is the summer series for our Faith & Fellowship women's ministry at LMCC. Each week we meet and hear teaching from God's word as well as testimonies of women like you who have lived and moved through challenges and have found strength and hope in God and through His Word. We love to connect in person and online through social media.

Follow, Check-in, and join the online community!



@LMCCWomen



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## Discussion Questions

July 17/18

### Just for fun...

- Share a memory of party you attended as a child or adult...A silly game? A fun theme? A great location?
- If you could invite any musician or performer to entertain at your birthday party, who would it be?

### Think and share...

- [James 3:7-8](#) warns that no "human being" can tame the tongue. Do you agree? Why or why not? Consider backing up your answer with Scripture.
- What are some practical ways you've found helpful in curbing any tendency you have to let your tongue get the best of you...cussing, gossiping, sarcasm, belittling, etc.
- Read [Proverbs 15:1-2](#). Discuss how you have seen this to be true in your own life
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study through James chapter three.

# *“What Prayer Can Do for You”*

with Jennifer Richmond

Missed the live talk? Listen to the recording here:

[www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com](http://www.DwellingRichly.podbean.com)

*- Notes -*

## *- Recommended Reading -*

Great non-fiction books by authors I love. Each one of these books has had a life changing impact on the way I think and how I view Scripture as well as how I live my life. These will help you in your understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as well as give you practical ways to improve your prayer life and gain understanding of your spiritual life in Christ:

- “Praying the Names of Jesus” and “Praying the Names of God” by Ann Spangler
- “The Helper” and “Adventures in Prayer” by Catherine Marshall
- “The Screwtape Letters” by C.S. Lewis
- “The Spirit of the Disciplines” by Dallas Willard
- “Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster
- “The Pursuit of God” by A.W. Tozer

The following are amazing biographies that have inspired me and continue to inspire me. I can read and re-read these and always come away with new insights. Their stories will challenge the way you are living. You will never be the same:

- “The Hiding Place” by Corrie Ten Boom
- “God’s Smuggler” by Brother Andrew
- “7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness” by Eric Metaxas

# Coffee Talk Summer Study

## Week Five ~ James Chapter Four

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better. This is a simple, light study to give you an overview of Scripture and an exposure to thinking biblically and studying exegetically.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Join the online Bible study community, or study on your own. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word.

### **Lots of ways to join the study in community:**

- LIVE weekdays at 7am → [www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964](http://www.Zoom.us/j/5627554964) or [www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen](http://www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen)
- The recording any time → [www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com](http://www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com) or iTunes, podcast app, or YouTube on the "Jennifer Richmond" channel Coffee Talk Bible Study playlist on your phone

### *~ This Week's Focus ~*

*As followers of Christ, our lives should be characterized by total complete surrender to the Father and total transformation of our will.*

## Day One – Read James chapter four

Read [James 4:1-17](#) Use the next page or your Bible study journal/notebook to write any notes, thoughts, questions, even drawings, that will help you engage and understand the Scripture. **Before you read**, pray that God would open the eyes of your heart to see clearly the wonders in His word ([Psalm 119:18](#)) and that He would give you wisdom (James 1:5) to grasp and apply what you are reading.

1. All through his epistle, James has used questions to help us think and grasp the point. List the questions he uses in this chapter: (There are at least 6)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Because you prayed before beginning your reading, God has answered your prayer as you read. I am confident of this. It's a prayer that He will always answer with "Yes!" Now, based on what you read, write a few thoughts about what really captured your heart and mind from these verses:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Notes from James 4:1-17 -

## Day Two – Read James 4:1-3

Read [James 4:1-3](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. As you read these verses, list the actions/behaviors that James calls out:  
|
2. Maybe you relate to one or more of the sins listed in verse one? I know I do. Go back to question #1 and mark which one or more of the above you have done in your life. Be honest. (Don't worry. No one will be judging you.) Which one(s) have you **not** done?  
|
3. Read [Matthew 5:21-26](#). What does Jesus say about murder and hatred?  
|

What point is He making about the state of our heart versus our actions?

4. Read [1 John 3:15](#). How do John's words echo Christ's from Matthew 5:21-26?  
|

*If you have hatred toward someone today, take a moment right now to pause with no excuses about their behavior or thoughts about how much they deserve it, and simply confess your hatred and ask God to search you and see if there is any offensive way in you ([Psalm 139:23-24](#)) and to give you a new heart – His heart toward that person ([Deut. 30:6](#))*

5. There's that word "desire" again. James spoke of it directly in chapter one verses 14-15, alluded to our desires again in chapters two and three, and now he reminds us about our desires in verse two. What kind of desire is he speaking of in [4:2](#)?  
|

What **should** we desire? Begin with the following passages and as time permits, do a word study on "desire/s" and make note of what God teaches about what we should be desiring.

[Psalm 37:4](#)

[Psalm 19:7-11](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:31](#)



6. According to James 4:2-3, why don't we have what we desire?

What do you think are examples of selfish motives in our prayer life? Consider any Scripture to back up your thoughts.

What do you think are examples of pure motives? What Scripture do you think supports your answer?

7. How should we pray then? Well, the disciples asked that question of Jesus, and Jesus answered. Read [Matthew 6:5-13](#) and [Matthew 6:33-34](#) then prayerfully consider how you are talking to God about what you want. Ask God to reveal any selfish motives you have. Ask Him to mature you in your prayer life and continue to make you more like Jesus who prayed, "not my will but Yours be done." ([Luke 22:42](#))

## Day Three – Read James 4:4-6

Read [James 4:4-6](#) after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. Ouch! What harsh word does James call the people? \_\_\_\_\_ Why?  
(review 4:1-5)

2. Imagery of adultery was written throughout the Old Testament as God cultivated relationship with His chosen people. A simple word study will bring up scores of verses that relate to this. God wants an exclusive relationship with His people. What is the essential nature of an act of adultery?

How then does adultery relate to the follower of Christ and how she behaves?  
Consider [2 Corinthians 11:2](#) and [Revelation 19:7-9](#)

3. Write James 4:4 in your own words. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you.

4. What happens when we make "friends with the world" (in the sinful/ungodly sense)?



5. This world has at best a casual attitude toward sin and at worst a flat-out denial of sin. Even worse is the way most approach God – even those in the church. But the Bible is clear; as followers of Christ what is the expected response if we are to be in the presence of God? Read [Isaiah 6:1-7](#) which relates how one of the most righteous men who ever lived responded when he was in God’s presence.  
|
6. What does James’ command in 4:9-10 tell us about how seriously does God take sin?  
|
7. How would you describe behavior that is the opposite of James 4:10? Consider James 3:14-16 and 4:1-4  
|
8. Read James 4:11-12. In what context and under what motives are we NOT to judge one another?  
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- Remember the context of James’ entire admonition can be found in James 3:1-4:10.*
9. This passage and similar ones in the Bible (Matt 7:1-3) have been used to insist that we should NEVER judge someone, implying a live-and-let-live attitude. Is this accurate to what God’s word actually says, though? Should we never judge and just be ok that everyone lives any way they want? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your response:  
|

As you conclude today, prayerfully consider how accurately you are grasping the heart of God toward sin in your own life as well as how willing you are to live a life that helps others grasp the heart of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Day Five – Read James 4:13-17

Read James 4:13-17 after praying for wisdom and understanding. Then answer the following:

1. It’s only natural that we make plans for tomorrow, right? How should the mindset of a Christian be different than that of a worldly person be different in regards to how we plan?  
|

2. In what way is James addressing another type of worldly thinking in these verses?  
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3. Read [Psalm 103:15-19](#) Write these verse in your own words:  
|
4. Read [Proverbs 16:9](#) How does this proverb relate to James' admonition in 4:13-16?  
|
5. What is the root sin James is addressing in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the cure for that sin as addressed in James 4:10? \_\_\_\_\_
7. So, how will that look then when you go to bed and think through your plans for the coming day?  
|
8. Write James 4:17.  
|
9. There are some "right things" based on Scripture that you know always to do, list several here:  
|
10. There are some "right things that you know in your heart you need to do in that moment. For example, seeing someone hurting at work or school and feeling that prompting in your heart to talk to them. How can you, based on the verses we have read this past week, be better at not just knowing the right thing to do but in doing them without hesitation? Write your thoughts here along with any verses that have been particularly helpful, and consider sharing this with your small group when we meet together at our next study.  
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- Notes -

*You are loved  
and prayed for.*

