

# REFLECTION GUIDE

7.16.23

## INTRO

James identifies the source of most relational conflict in our lives and gives us some practical advice about how to avoid it!

## THOUGHTS

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## PRAYER

God of mercy, I confess that I am too easily drawn into thinking and acting selfishly. Help me to put the well-being of the people in my life ahead of my own desires. Help me to make space in my life to spend more time connecting with you so I can grow in humility and selflessness.

Thank you for the way Christ demonstrated this so lovingly for me.  
Amen.

## DIGGING DEEPER

- Think of someone in your life who has demonstrated wise humility. How has that person influenced your behavior?
- In James 4:1-2 we read, "Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it." [MSG]
  - According to verse 1, what is the root of our conflicts with others?
  - How does that principle play out in our country? In the world?
- Later in chapter 4, James highlights humility as being a quality that God values.
  - Describe the role of humility in a peaceful relationship.
  - Why do you think we struggle so much with humility in our closest relationships?
  - Is there a particular relationship you have that could use an extra dose of humility on your part? How might that change the dynamic?
- In James 4:8, the reader is encouraged to "draw near to God." [MEV]
  - What does that look like in your life?
  - What does James say will be the result?
  - What are some ways you could grow in this?
- When you think about your times of closeness with God, have you noticed any change in your attitude toward others as a result?

