



CONVERSATION STARTER

When was the last divisive conversation you had with someone? What did you divide over? How did you handle the situation?

DEEPER

NOTE: This would be a good time to reflect on how group members are doing in their memorization of James 1 if you've accepted the challenge together.

Read James 4:1-3 The Cause of Division

1. James tells us the reason for our quarreling and fighting with others is due to our passions that are at war within us. Of all your passions that have the potential to cause division, which are the loudest in your flesh?
2. Most division isn't over essential doctrines, but nonessential. Why do you think nonessential issues so often create the most tension among Christians?

The Results of Division

3. Pastor Josh pointed out that division within the body of Christ damages our witness. How have you seen conflict among Christians affect unbelievers' perception of the faith?
4. Even when division is necessary (over essential truths), what does it look like to fight in a distinctly Christian way?
5. Think of a current or recent conflict. How has it affected your relationship with God?

The Cure for Division

6. James says, "You do not have because you do not ask." Additionally, he says we ask wrongly to spend it on our passions. How can you tell the difference between a godly desire and a selfish one?

7. Read Matthew 7:7–11. How does trusting God as a good Father reshape the way we handle unmet desires?

8. What is one situation right now where you need to stop fighting for your will and start submitting to God's will? What would it look like to pray differently about that situation this week?

Wrap Up

9. What else from the sermon lingered with you this week? What questions or thoughts did it stir up?

NOTES

GROUP PRAYER

Have each person quietly reflect and write down:

- A current conflict or tension with one or more people (over non-essentials)
- The underlying desire driving it
- A prayer surrendering that desire to God

Then invite anyone to share. Pray together as a group to close.