

# **Do the Bible: This weapon wins any war!**

James 4:1-12

**Big Idea: Only God's unconditional love is worthy of your unconditional surrender**

## **I. Surrender Christian idolatry 1-3**

**What is the source of wars and fights among you? Don't they come from your passions that wage war within you? You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

## **II. Surrender Christian adultery 4-10**

**You adulterous people! Don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely? But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.**

## **III. Surrender Christian bigotry 11-12**

**Don't criticize one another, brothers and sisters. Anyone who defames or judges a fellow believer defames and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?**

**Next Steps:**

- **Check your motives in prayer.**
- **Connect with someone far from Christ.**
- **Cross a social boundary with the Gospel.**

**Growth Group Questions:**

1. What is the big obstacle in surrendering your will to God?
2. Is this source of war that James describes also present in non-believers?
3. What makes our passions so difficult to control?
4. Why does it feel like God doesn't hear our prayers sometimes?
5. What are the consequences of the spiritual adultery that James refers to?
6. How does the war in verse 1 lead to judgment in verse 12?