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## #9 “Friend of the World or Friend of God” *James 4:1-10*

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THE  
**NO-NONSENSE  
GUIDE**  
TO AN  
**EXTRAORDINARY  
CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
- THE BOOK OF  
JAMES

### Warming Up

1. Rehearse the concept of “the genius of the AND vs. the tyranny of the OR.” What are some things in life that work well in a both-and scenario? What are some everyday examples that can really only be either-or?

### Digging In

2. Unpack what James means when he speaks of being a “friend of the world.” How is the word “world” used throughout Scripture? What about in this particular passage?
3. Pastor Dan argued that friendship with the world and friendship with God are either-or, not both-and, realities. Explain. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. *If you’re a friend of the world, you’ll have conflict with others (4:1a), conflict with yourself (4:1b-3), and conflict with God (4:4-6).*
  - What does it look like for “your passions [to be] at war within you”? How have you experienced this in your own life?
  - Pastor Dan stated, “The Christian life is a moment-by-moment struggle to find ultimate meaning and joy, to find genuine fulfillment, in the things of God rather than the things of this world.” What is your response?
  - What is your take on James’ use of the words “adulterous” and “enemy” to describe those who take a both-and approach to friendship with the world and friendship with God? What is he saying? Appropriate or not? How so?
5. *If you’re a friend of God, you’ll . . .*
  - *Get strong (4:7b).* How do different people in the Bible “resist the devil”? What resources or strategies have you found helpful in withstanding his attacks?
  - *Get close (4:8a).* How does it impact you at a heart level to know that God wants to “draw near to you”?
  - *Get clean (4:8b).* Discuss the difference between a believer’s positional and practical cleanness. Why is purity so critical in our relationship with God?
  - *Get broken (4:9).* What comes to mind when you hear the word “repentance”? To what degree are our emotions an important part of this process?
  - *Get low (4:7a, 10).* How does a proper understanding of who God really is help us with the often-difficult acts of submitting and humbling ourselves before him?

### Breaking Out

6. Which of the “get \_\_\_\_\_” statements are you struggling with the most? How so? What is your next step to deepen your friendship with God? How can your group members encourage you in this regard?



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