

## Applying It In My Life .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. Think of a recent conflict you have been involved in, or witnessed. Without naming names, what happened? Why did it take place?
2. In what ways are you most tempted to try to be friends with both God *and* the world?
3. How does your experience of repentance compare to what James describes? Which aspects of genuine repentance do you find easiest to forget or downplay?
4. Examine your own prayer life. How much of your prayer is focused on selfish desires? What can help change this?

### ACTIVE FAITH ACTION STEP | WEEK 07

The next time you start to have conflict, stop and consider your own desires and choose genuine repentance instead.

## Prayer Time .....Group time - 15 minutes

*Ask God for insight into your passions and desires. Thank God that He gives greater grace to overcome our craving for pleasure and quarreling. Take time to repent with sorrow over your sin and draw near to God with confidence through the blood of Jesus.*

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## ***It Starts with You***

***James 4:1-10***

*How do we become the peacemakers?*

### **I. What gets in the way of peacemaking? *James 4:1-3***

### **II. What is key to peacemaking? *James 4:4-10***

***The key to peacemaking starts with you!***

# GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of March 5, 2017

## Getting Started .....Group time - 20 minutes

1. Growing up, who was the “trouble maker” of your family? Who was the “peace maker”?
2. What are some common causes for conflict at work? At home? In friendships?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting Into God’s Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read James 3:18; 4:1-3

1. Our tendency is to think that peacemaking would be easy if it didn’t involve people, but in verses 1-2, where does James locate the problem?
2. What are the passions and desires to which James refers? When we act on selfish desires, what are we forgetting about God?

**PERSONAL:** What desires battle within you? Is pleasure or the glory of God the dominant concern for your life?

3. According to verse 3, when we ask God for things, why do we often not get what we want? Why do our motives matter in prayer?

### Read James 4:4-10

4. In verse 4, what language does James use to help us understand the seriousness of sin? How should this affect how you view your own sin?
5. What does it mean to be friends with the world? What should be the Christian’s relationship to the world? **Read also: 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 8:5-8**
6. In verses 7-9, what stages of genuine repentance do you see? How does personal repentance relate to being a peacemaker?

### Read Psalm 63:1-11

7. The best solution to avoid seeking the world, is to seek God and make Him first in your life. What can you learn from this psalm writer in regards to seeking God?