

James 4:4–8

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

James 4:7–8

MEMORY VERSE

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **James 4:7–8**

“Dad, how do you just be humble?” Ryan asked.

“Wow, that’s a great question. Can you give me a little more to go on?” responded Ryan’s dad.

“This guy, Craig, on my basketball team—he’s amazing. He’s obviously the best player, but he never brags or talks trash like the other guys. I know he’s a Christian, and you can tell by his actions,” Ryan explained.

“I think you’ve just answered your own question, Ryan,” replied his dad. “Craig is humble because he knows God and shows that he walks with Him.” Read James 4:4–8. In essence, James explains that

to “come near to God” requires humility. You cannot come near to God and not be humbled. One goes with the other. Drawing near to the presence of the God who created us would be frightening were it not for His grace. He desires that relationship so intensely that He provides maximum grace through His Spirit.

We live in a world that loves itself and puts great pressure on us to conform to its values to achieve, succeed, earn, and excel. To attain these on our own leads to pride. To trust God to bring them about is to live in humility and rely on His grace. To teach our children the difference is our greatest task.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Lead family members to each share a story of a time when they succeeded or accomplished something that mattered to them. Discuss: **How did you feel at the moment you knew you succeeded? What did you take away from that experience that has stayed with you today?**

Explore . . .

A family member reads James 4:4–8. Discuss: **What is the danger of becoming prideful about our accomplishments? What characterizes the attitude that pleases God? How do we stay humble even in great accomplishments?**

Transform . . .

Family members discuss ways they unintentionally reinforce “friendship” with the values of the world. Discuss issues such as grades, sports, finances, material possessions, or future goals. Make a commitment to prayerfully evaluate these values together, especially in times when conflict arises. A family member reads: **Let’s choose to remember the qualities that indicate we are walking humbly with God. In this way, we will know how to draw closer to God instead of moving further away.** A family member may volunteer to create a sign with James 4:6 on it for the refrigerator door as a reminder of the commitment.

Pray that your family members will seek to draw near to God by taking on His humility and His grace.