

## WEEK 11

TO READ IN THE BOOK: CHAPTER 16, ANGER, AND CHAPTER 17, HOPE

### BIBLE STUDY: JAMES 4:1-12

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Read v. 1-4. Why does James say that we are adulterous simply because we quarrel and fight? What is adulterous about that?

Read v. 5. How does it make you feel when you think that God grows envious over you? What do you feel as you realize that God becomes filled with envy when he sees your loyalty to other lovers?

What does it mean to resist the Devil? Or perhaps a better question: do you believe the Devil exists? If yes, what has the Devil been doing over the past few months in your life and your world?

What is the point of grieving and mourning? What is the relationship between “resisting the devil” and grieving/mourning?

### BIG IDEAS ABOUT ANGER AND HOPE

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Anger is good. It is part of being created in the image of God. God feels anger; therefore humans created in God’s image feel anger.

Anger is fallen. It has been distorted and corrupted just like everything else in the world.

We want to repent of that part of our anger that is distorted, while cultivating that part of our anger which is directed against sin and injustice.

We all put our hope in something.

To hope in God means to long—in an expectant way—for God to come through for you in a particular way.

Hoping that God will fulfill my desires and “needs” may be an attempt to use God. It may also be evidence of your trust in God and your longing for God to come through for you (by giving you the desires of your heart and providing for your basic needs).

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is to live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance, but live right in it, under its roof.

The doctor and author Sherwin Nuland points out the following about hope: The Indo-European root of the word hope is the stem k-e-u. And that stem means “to go in a different direction.”

When you begin to hope, you begin to live in a different story. Evil is working to get you to live in an increasingly cynical story. God is continually inviting you to go in a different direction—that is, to live into a new story, a story in which you expect God to show up.

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHILE READING:

When was the last time you were fairly significantly angry (5 or higher on a 1 to 10 scale)? What (really) made you angry?

When you get angry, what does your anger look like and what does it sound like?

Have you ever felt justified in your anger? Why did you feel it was justified?

What does righteous anger look and sound like? What is the purpose of this anger?

Do you resign yourself to accepting the sin and suffering around you, or do you allow yourself to get angry about it and to do something about it?

When was the last time you were angry at God? What was that experience like? What did you do with your anger at God?

When was the last time you were disappointed about something fairly significant (a 5 or above on a scale of 1 to 10)? What were you hoping would happen that didn't?

What leads you to give up hope?