

March 7, 2021

Sermon discussion questions:

1. Read James 4:7-17 with your group. What part of this passage stands out to you?
2. What does it look like to draw near to God and to resist the devil? Do you have any stories of times when you felt movement in the spiritual realm, when God came close and the forces of evil retreated?
3. Why does God command us not to judge other people? Why is it so hard for us not to judge? What do you see as the difference between justice and judgement?
4. What kind of relationship do you have with the future? Are you tempted to boast or worry? According to James and Jesus, how should we think about tomorrow?
5. What do you think about the idea of “knowing your place” at the table of God’s kingdom? Do you feel invited to that table? Do you feel the urge to invite others?
6. What do you think about these “humble words” (the four sayings and three questions)? What difference might it make if we commit to saying these phrases often and asking these questions before we speak? Here are the phrases again:

I don’t know.	Is it true?
I need help.	Is it kind?
I’m sorry.	Does it need to be said?
I was wrong.	

7. How can you wash someone else’s feet this week? What good can you do this week?

Pray together. Here are two prayers of confession, if the Spirit leads this way:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

God of endless possibility, we confess that we do not always perceive the opportunities you place before us. Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies, and crushed when they disappoint us, we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us. Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life you offer us, and thus show forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ.