



5

Yield

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WHEN
HAVE YOU
REALLY
WANTED
TO BE FIRST
IN LINE?

The POINT ➤

Humbly place the needs of
others before your own.

➤ PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5,13-15

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus ...

.....

¹³For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without grumbling and arguing, ¹⁵so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world ...



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

With things like fast food drive-thrus, traffic lights, and checkout lines, the average person spends around 2 years waiting in line.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // COMMUNITY & WORLD

We demonstrate honor for God when we respect the earthly authorities God has placed in our lives, including parents, pastors, teachers, coaches, police, and government.

I get amused when I see a news story about people who camp out overnight to be one of the first to purchase the latest phone. On the other hand, it's troubling to see reports of people pushing, shoving, and even exchanging blows to be the first in the store for Black Friday sales. For these people, being first means everything to them. However, there are other times when being first isn't necessarily a good thing. At the doctor's office, we'd rather let our siblings go first to get shots.

Whether we want to be first in line or last, it's a matter of selfishness. It's about what I want or what I want to avoid. A desire for something is not necessarily wrong, but when I pursue it at the expense of others, I have placed myself above others, and this does damage to relationships.

In the Book of Philippians, we learn of a better way. Paul calls us to be first in line for one thing—looking out for the needs of others. When we do this, we experience the great benefits of strong relationships.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

1 When have you benefited from someone who looked out for your interests?

2 How do we balance our responsibility to ourselves and to others?



When a person is full of himself, his perspectives are the cleverest and his experiences are the richest. Jesus' attitude calls us to empty our egos and put others first. #BSFLRelationships

PHILIPPIANS 2:5

3 How have you seen relationships strengthened through acts of humility?

4 How would you describe someone who's full of himself?

5 When do you find it particularly difficult to have the same attitude as Jesus?

PHILIPPIANS 2:13-15

6 What has helped you fight the urge to complain or argue?

7 How does your attitude affect your witness to the people in your life?

8 If you truly honor God's call not to complain or argue, what outcomes would you expect?



LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

**COMMUNITY
& WORLD**

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // COMMUNITY & WORLD

We demonstrate honor for God when we respect the earthly authorities God has placed in our lives, including parents, pastors, teachers, coaches, police, and government.

We're naturally inclined toward having selfish perspectives. This shows up in disagreements with our friends, arguments with our siblings, and even in disobedience to our parents. But the Bible teaches us in Philippians that we are to consider others' perspectives and needs as more important than our own—the opposite of selfishness. Further, we are to do everything without complaining at all. This can be challenging, yet when we have the attitude of Jesus, we'll find that honoring our parents (including not complaining about rules or curfews), respecting our teachers and other leaders, and spending time the ways our friends want to becomes a natural expression of our love for and submission to God.

> CHRIST

When we feel like we're not as close to God as we'd like to be, it's often because our desires aren't aligned with His—we do the things we want instead of what He wants. But the Bible teaches that just as Jesus lived sacrificially for the good of others, we are to do the same. This is an expression of love for the people in our lives, as well as an expression of our desire to honor God.

9 How have you lived according to your own desires instead of living according to God's will? How has this affected your relationship with Him?

10 This week, how will you put aside your own desires to demonstrate submission to God?

Remember, the ultimate goal is not only to do what God wants, but to desire the same things God desires. Pray every day that God would help you to obey from the heart.

› COMMUNITY

11 When have you lived selfishly and it damaged your relationships with others?



12 This week, how will you practice humility and place the needs of others before your own?

- › Think in terms of small things (do these regularly) and large things (these may be long-term or big-picture changes). Pray through how God would have you pursue these.

› CULTURE

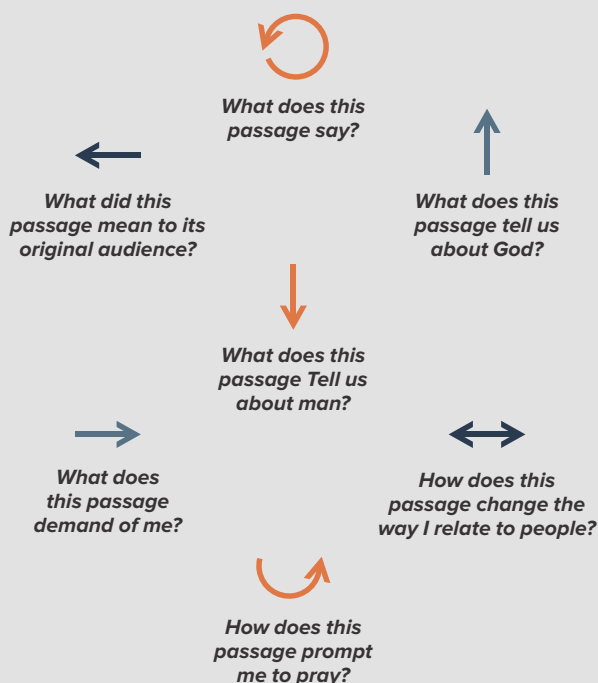
Because we live in a selfish world, people naturally look out for their own interests and rarely put others' needs before their own.

13 How will you use the opportunity to answer the needs of a lost person as a way to share the gospel? Remember, Jesus served as the ultimate sacrifice even when we were lost. Share this with your unbelieving friends.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One **JAMES 4:1-2**

James wrote to Christians who were persecuted by the Jews as well as by the Romans. In fact, they'd faced such heavy abuse that they had to flee their homes and their homeland. This should have knit them closer together—after all, they were all suffering at the hands of people with greater power and authority, so they knew what their friends were going through. However, what James (the author of this letter) found out is that they were arguing and fighting. Here's why—they were being selfish! Instead of having compassion for the sufferings of their friends, they began worrying about themselves above all else, and it led to a lot of conflict. This kind of self-centered perspective never leads to anything good. Instead, they should have trusted God to provide for their needs and lived in a spirit of prayer based on that humble perspective.

- **In what ways are you tempted to act selfishly?**
- **Why are our prayers hindered when we live by selfish perspectives?**

Day Two

JAMES 4:3-5



Not only were the people in the church relating to one another selfishly, they approached God from selfish perspectives. They had been taught that it was important to pray. However, their prayers weren't representative of the right spirit. The things they asked of God were to indulge their selfish desires and certainly not in pursuit of seeing God's will as a reality in their lives. They were behaving exactly like the people of the world, and this should never be characteristic of the church. When we were in our sin, we were enemies of God. However, because of His grace and the blood of Christ, we become friends of God. We should live—and pray—like it.

➤ **Why are worldly people enemies of God?**

➤ **How does praying selfishly make us like worldly people?**

Day Three

JAMES 4:6-7

As long as we are in this life, we will struggle with sin. Since the curse, sin has infected all of creation, including our bodies and minds, our thinking and desires. However, God's grace is greater than the sin that has brought such devastation to God's good creation. When we acknowledge our brokenness, agree with God about what's right and wrong, and turn from the world and toward God, He will supply the strength we need to follow Him. For those who live pridefully, God resists them. However, when we humble ourselves before God, acknowledging our weaknesses and in recognition of His glory and power, He will lift us out of our sin. And this isn't so that we would receive glory, but that we would point to God as the one who is truly good. When we resist the devil's temptations by the power of God, he will flee and God will provide the strength we need to live well.

➤ **Why does God resist people who are prideful?**

➤ **What does it mean to resist the devil by the power of God?**

Day Four

JAMES 4:8-9

In the Old Testament, those who would enter God's presence had to go through an elaborate ceremony that represented their being cleansed. If we are to live in relationship with God, we can't be half-in-half-out, partly devoted to God and partly indulgent in the ways of the world. We have to be fully committed to following Jesus and serious about putting to death the sin in our lives. The worldly things that once brought us pleasure or made us laugh, when we recognize they're offensive to God, should now make us weep miserably. And when we learn to see sin the way God does, He allows us to know Him intimately, and we have the great privilege of living in close relationship with the Creator of the universe.

- **What things do people of the church "enjoy" but which are offensive to God? What about you specifically?**
- **How will you "cleanse your hands" and "mourn and weep" over these things this week?**

Day Five

JAMES 4:10



Jesus is the perfect picture of what it means to be humble before the Father. In His humanity, the last thing He wanted to do was to experience the cross. It was such a heavy burden for Him, and as He prayed before going to the cross, Jesus' sweat turned to blood. There are times our fleshly desires will not align with the desires of God. However, if we're willing to put aside those things we know don't please God in pursuit of a life that honors Him, we can know for certain that, one day, God will raise us up with Christ, and we'll share in His inheritance for eternity.

- **What does it mean to be humble before God?**
- **How does your life show that you share in Jesus' resurrection?**