

Small Group Notes - Sunday June 10th, 2018

James chapter 4 v 1-10 – Humble submission to the God who comes near

Welcome

Who is the most famous person that you know, or that you have met?
Under what circumstances did you get to know / meet them?

Worship

Read Psalm 24 together and use it as starter for a time of reflection, confession, praise and worship.

Word

James chapter 4 v 1-10:

- God comes near to us (v8; Gen.3:8-9; Ex. 3:1-6; Is. 7:14; Matt. 28:20)
- How near are we to God? (v8)
- When God is near, desires are different (v1-3) and idols less attractive (v4-6)
- How do we come near?
 - Decision (v8)
 - Confession (v8)
 - Communion (v9)
 - Submission (v7, 10)

1. What do you think God is like?

(Your honest answer to this question probably dictates most of your attitudes, actions, hopes and fears)
What does it mean that this God promises to come near to you / us? (v8)

2. What are the idols ('things of the world') that compete for God's place in our lives? (v4-5)

3. How does God being near impact our desires, our 'fights and quarrels' and the place of idols in our lives? (v1-6)

4. What gets in the way of us coming near to God?

5. What can we do to come near to Him?

6. Looking back, can you see how your thoughts, desires or the things that 'break your heart' have changed as you have grown in your relationship with God? (v9)

7. What does submitting and humbling ourselves before God mean in practice? (v7,10)

8. What concrete things will you do differently this week in order to come near to God?

Prayer

Pray for those who are in hospital or remain unwell

Pray for Malden Manor Community Church and their outreach to local people

Pray for people sitting exams this week