

WEEKLY GUIDE

OCTOBER 31, 2021

1 GATHER! SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

BIBLE READINGS:

Psalm 141:3-4; James 4:1-17; Matthew 5:21-22, 28; Mark 7:20-23; Proverbs 7:25-26; Hebrews 19:21-22; Deuteronomy 4:29; Proverbs 8:17; Isaiah 55:6, 64:7; Zephaniah 3:1-2

PSALM 141:3

Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

JAMES 4:7-8

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

HEBREWS 10:21-22

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

DEUTERONOMY 4:29

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

ISAIAH 55:6

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.

ISAIAH 64:7

No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.

ZEPHANIAH 3:1-2

Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! 2 She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the Lord, she does not draw near to her God.

2 TALK! DISCUSS THE LESSONS

3 DO! PUT THE LESSONS INTO PRACTICE

4 PRAY! MAKE YOUR REQUESTS KNOWN TO GOD

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DISCUSSION:

Read James 4:1-17. Note each verse that mentions anything to do with our speech. What areas are included by James? Is any of it good? In what ways does our speech impact our relationships with others and with God?

What seems to be at the center of the problems we have with our speech? How might you suggest we guard these areas of our lives? Why are verses 7 and 8 key to speaking life?

What does it mean to resist the enemy and draw near to God? What is the converse of resisting the enemy and drawing near to God? What is the difference between resisters and enemy sympathizers?

What happens when we stop drawing near to God and calling upon the Lord? What characteristics are true of a city that does not draw near to God? What do James 4, Isaiah 64, and Zephaniah 3 all have in common? Why is repentance a critical component of drawing near to God? What is true of one who is humbly repentant (see Zephaniah 3:9)? What would it mean for you to stir yourself to take hold of God? How can you ensure that you are pursuing God daily?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

When we are not right with God it greatly impacts our speech, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God. Grumbling, disputes, arguments, complaining, boasting, and slander are all the result of a heart that is not drawing near to God. Even our prayers are made ineffective when we seek our own interests and not God's. There is a sure way to fix it. Resist the enemy and draw near to God. We must never be in the position where the opposite is true. When we are humbly repentant, God purifies our lips and it makes all the difference. We must strive daily to stir ourselves to lay hold of and draw near to God.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

