

## **Week Twenty-four**

### **Focus Scripture: James 4:4-6**

#### **Opening Activities:**

1. Have a plunger relay race. Divide into teams and give each team at least two plungers and a water filled balloon or ball. The object of the game is to get the ball from one end of the line to the other by passing it from plunger to plunger. If the ball falls to the ground, the team has to start over. The first team to get their ball to the end wins.

When the game is over, say: **Playing a game with plungers can seem kind of strange! Plungers are, well, a bit disgusting to think about! We should not LOVE a plunger! Guess what? Our love for things in this world should be like our love for PLUNGERS when compared with our love for God! We should love God so much that everything else is like a PLUNGER in comparison!**

2. Have a “Plunger Ball” toss. Every child needs a partner, a plunger, and a ball. Have them line up facing their partners. They have to toss a ball back and forth, catching it and tossing it with the plungers. Have them keep moving further from each other until they miss the ball. The team that stands the furthest from each other and still catches the ball wins the game. Use the same application as in activity 2.

3. Play toilet bowl hockey! Divide into teams and give each person a cheap toilet bowl cleaner. The hockey puck is a roll of toilet paper and the goals are toilet bowl seats placed on their sides. Kids play this on their knees, hitting the toilet paper roll with the toilet bowl cleaners, trying to get the “puck” into the “goals”. Have lots of fun with this! (You might even want to play music in the background as you play. A good song to use for this is “Things of This World are Passing Away” by DC Talk. You can find this song here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW2pV92ytWg>).

When the game is over, say: **In this rather silly game, you wanted to get the roll of toilet paper into the toilet and you had to do it on your knees with a toilet bowl cleaner. James 4:6 says, “God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble”. When I think of a humble person, I think of a person who is willing to get down on their hands and knees and clean a toilet! True humility involves doing those things that others refuse to do. Our love for God needs to be so strong that we are willing to do ANYTHING for Him!**

#### **The Lesson:**

Read James 4:4-6. Ask: **When you think of God being a jealous God, what do you think of? Discuss. Usually, we think of jealousy as a bad thing. In fact, we have studied jealousy and the terrible consequences that can come as a result of jealousy in a person's life. However, God describes Himself as being jealous . . . for US! In other words, God does not want to share our**

**love with any other thing. He wants us to love Him more than ANYTHING at all!**

**We have a decision to make. Will we serve the Lord and love Him more than anyone or anything else, or will we love the world and the things of the world more than God?**

Play “Things of this world” pictionary. Use a white board and take turns drawing pictures to represent things of the world that people can become attached to. You can come up with your own ideas, or use the following ideas:

- A relationship with a boyfriend/girlfriend
- A popular musician
- The right clothes
- Money
- Fame
- Popularity
- Video Games
- Sports
- Movies/TV Shows

Every time someone finishes drawing, make a big deal about erasing the pictures and say, “Look! The things of this world are passing away!”

When you have finished, say: **Those were all some things that we often place in front of our relationship with God. We say that those things are more important and we let those things control us instead of our love for God. This is not the way it should be. Instead, our relationship with God needs to be the ABSOLUTE most important thing in our lives. How are you doing in this area? Is there anything in your life that is more important than God? Are you in danger of loving the world?**

Read 1 John 2:15-17. Use the following questions to aid in your discussion:

- What does loving the world say about our relationship with God?
- Where do all the things of the world come from?
- What is happening to all the things of the world?
- What is the only thing that will last?

Say: **All the things of the world are passing away. The only thing that will last is our relationship with God. When all is said and done, the only thing that will matter is what we did with Jesus Christ.**

Take a plunger and hold it up. Ask: **What are some things in this world that we get attached to? What are we in danger of putting ahead of God?** As kids mention items, use a sharpie to write them on the plunger. When the plunger is full, say: **This plunger is full of “things of the world”. Those things might look great for awhile, but eventually, they will pass away. At some point, I will use this plunger, and all of those things will go in the toilet! Our love for God needs to be more important than any of this stuff! God’s love for us is strong and never-ending. He loves us so**

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**much that He died for us!**

**That's worth a whole lot more than a plunger, isn't it?**

Give everyone a plain piece of paper and markers, crayons, etc. Have each child draw or write what they think of when they think of God's love for them. Play a song for them while they do this – their time is up when the song is finished. Encourage them to do this without talking and away from others. This is meant to be a time between them and God.

A good song to play at this time is “How He Loves” by David Crowder. You can find a video of this song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDSE438XMaQ>.

When the song is over, close this time in prayer, thanking God for His incredible love for us.

## **Additional Activities:**

1. Make plunger art. Why not? If you used the plungers earlier, get them out again and encourage the kids to use these to make an art project. They can trace them or dip them in paint and paint with them . . . provide the art supplies and let the kids provide the creativity. There might be a lot of laughter at this time – but the message will be remembered!
2. Make and decorate heart sugar cookies as a reminder that we need to love God more than anything else.
3. Help your kids make a “Jesus Loves Me” craft. Find instructions here: <http://www.catholicicing.com/jesus-loves-me-bible-craft-for-kids/>
4. Sing “J is for Jesus”. Find a video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvZa\\_6igXtw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvZa_6igXtw).

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Dear Parents,

Today we studied James 4:4-6. We talked with your child about how our love for God needs to be more important than anything else in this world! In fact, everything else should be like a PLUNGER compared to our love for God. (Ask your child to explain that to you – it should lead to a rather interesting conversation regarding what we did today!). We also talked about how God is jealous for us – He loves US so much that He died for us!

This week's Bible Reading will help reinforce what we talked about together. Please encourage your child to complete the readings. Thank you!

### **Read to Me Bible Reading Plan (James 4:4-6)**

\_\_\_ **Day One: James 4:4-6.** God loves you and wants to be your BEST FRIEND! He wants you to love Him better than ANYTHING or ANYONE! Here's a fun song to remind us that Jesus is the best! It is “Jesus You're My Superhero” and the video is by Whiplash Studios:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FY4C930M2Y>

\_\_\_ **Day Two: Joshua 24:14-15** What does it mean to serve the Lord? When we serve Jesus, we do what He wants us to do. We want to make him happy by the way that we live our lives! Are you serving Jesus? *Make a craft/chart with your child to help him remember to serve Jesus every day. Follow the instructions given, but at the top of the foot write “I will serve the Lord”, and use a picture of your child as the clipart. During each day, talk about how your child has been serving Jesus that day and then move his picture to the proper place. Find further instructions here:*  
<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/946/preschool/serve-god-everyday.php>

\_\_\_ **Day Three: Luke 14:27.** Jesus needs to be FIRST in your life! Are you willing to do anything for him? *Give your child crackers and cheese spread and help him make a cross to remind him of the sacrifice that Jesus made and that we need to be willing to sacrifice for Jesus, too. Talk to your child about what it means to give up everything to follow Jesus. Pray together, asking God to help you be willing to give up everything to follow Him. Eat the snack together!*

\_\_\_ **Day Four: 1 John 2:15-17.** Did you hear who the Bible says lives forever? The one who does the will of God! If we are Christians, we will live forever with Jesus in heaven! That is a wonderful thing to celebrate! *Have a “I'm happy I'm a Christian” celebration today! Give your child noisemakers (or make your own: <http://www.howdoesshe.com/9-easy-ways-to-make-noise-for-the-new-year/>) blow up balloons and play a game with them, play fun music and dance around rejoicing, and then have a fun snack. Remind your child that you are celebrating the fact that you get to live forever with Jesus and then do just that . . . CELEBRATE!*

\_\_\_ **Day Five: James 4:4-6.** Give some of your prized possessions away to the poor!

### **Independent Readers Bible Reading Plan (James 4:4-6)**

\_\_\_ **Day One: James 4:4-6.** *Think about it:* What does it mean to have friendships with the world?

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Do these verses mean that we can't have any friends who aren't Christians? NOTE: Friendship with the world means that we love the world and all that is in it – in essence, we want to be just like the world. As Christians, we are not to love the things of the world. This does not, however, mean that we should not be friends with people who are not Christians. We NEED to be friends with those who are not Christians so that we can show them the love of Christ. How else will they see Jesus if we refuse to spend time with them and love them? *Pray about it:* Ask God to help you love Him more than anything in this world! And, just for fun, here's a video to remind us that Jesus is better than ANYONE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FY4C930M2Y>

\_\_\_ **Day Two: Joshua 24:14-28.** *Think about it:* What did Joshua challenge the people to do? NOTE: We have a decision to make. Will we serve the Lord and love Him more than anyone or anything else, or will we love the world and the things of the world more than God? What choice are you making in your life? *Pray about it:* Pray about your commitment to God today!

\_\_\_ **Day Three: Luke 14:25-35.** *Think about it:* What do we need to give up to become a follower of Jesus? Jesus tells us that we must count the cost and see if we are willing to do what it takes. Have you counted the cost? Are you willing to place your relationship with Jesus Christ as more important than ANYTHING else in your life? *Pray about it:* Ask God to reveal any area where He is not first in your life.

\_\_\_ **Day Four: 1 John 2:15-17.** *Think about it:* What is happening to all the things in the world? What is the only thing in life that will last? *Pray about it:* Ask God to help you seek after that which will last.

\_\_\_ **Day Five: James 4:4-6.** Give some of your prized possessions away to the poor!

These verses tell of God's great love for us – He is JEALOUS for us! He doesn't want to take second place to anything else – a relationship, a hobby, a sport, a possession . . . He wants to be more important to us than ANYTHING. This is a great song by David Crowder (“How He Loves”) to remind us of that fact. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FxaUYjRtkc>