



**ONE
ANOTHER SERIES**



Don't Slander One Another

JAMES 4:11-12



STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested Icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share an experience where someone (it can be themselves) acted in a way that was above and beyond their role, position, or function. Ask them to share as well what happened as a result, and what lesson was learned.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested song:

- [I Will Follow](#)
- [Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will not spread gossip or speak ill of fellow believers with intention to harm.
2. GG members will humble themselves by submitting to all of God's commands.
3. GG members will humble themselves by acknowledging God as judge of all people.

INTRODUCTION

In the context of our passage, James was addressing infighting in the church. Believers were quarreling with one another. He exhorts them not to speak evil against one another in their selfishness and pride. They sin against God when they do so. A believer who intentionally disobeys God's commands disagrees with what God laid down as right and wrong. He reminded them that God is the only one who can say what is right and wrong, and he is the only one who can judge people.

James commanded believers not to speak evil against each other (v. 11a)

The reason we know that James is addressing believers in this passage is because he addressed them as "brothers." He exhorted them against slandering each other.

1. What does it mean to slander another person? (cf. v. 11b; Matthew 7:1-2)
2. Why do you think it is wrong to slander someone, especially a fellow believer? What are possible motives behind slander? (cf. vv. 1-2; Psalm 101:5; 2 Corinthians 12:20)
3. Try to search your Bible for the term "speak against." What are some examples of people "speaking against" another? Do you think these examples fall into the category of slander? (cf. Numbers 21:5; 1 Peter 2:12)

Application:

It may not be obvious, but sometimes believers slander each other in church. The terms and words used may be good, but in the end, they result in harm for fellow believers. Think of some examples and discuss how we can avoid committing the same.

James explained the reason behind the command (v. 11b)

The believer who speaks against a fellow believer not only judges them, but they also speak evil of and judge God's commands. That is because God commanded believers against committing slander. When a believer intentionally breaks God's commands, they are saying that they know better than God what is right and wrong.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

1. What does God say about slander? (cf. Leviticus 19:16; Matthew 15:19; Ephesians 4:31)
2. What are believers commanded to do to fellow believers? (cf. Leviticus 19:18; Luke 10:27) How does this relate to slander, as defined earlier?
3. Instead of “judging the law,” what should believers do with regard to the law? (cf. James 1:22)

Application:

When believers judge fellow believers, not only are they putting themselves in a position above them, they are also putting themselves above God’s commands. How can you develop a humble attitude to refrain from doing this?

James concluded that only God can judge people (v. 12)

God is the only one who can say what is right and wrong. Humanity continues to fall into Satan’s original temptation in the garden of Eden to not rely on God for the definition of right and wrong. James reminded the believers that God is the only one who defines right and wrong, and he is the only one who can judge people.

1. What did James say about God? (cf. Isaiah 33:22)
2. What are things that only God can do, according to James? (cf. 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 12:23)
3. How are James’ description of God’s role and capacity connected to the command against slander?

Application:

God alone is both lawgiver and judge. He alone has the power to save and destroy. Humans are powerless to save themselves. What should lead us, as believers, to do?

PRAYER ITEM

Father God, I acknowledge that you alone are good, holy, and just. Because you alone are holy and impartial, you are the only one who can rightly judge. Teach me to humble myself and be reminded of who you are and who I am in relation to you, that I may not sin against you. May you work in me and through me so that my life and words may be a testimony and witness of you to the people around me. All these I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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