

# THE HEART'S DESIRES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JAMES 4:1-3



## The STORY

Read about the desires of our hearts in James 4:1-3.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What does it mean to want something? (When we want something, we desire to get it or have it for our own.)
- What does James say people do when they don't get what they want? (Hold up a clenched fist as a clue. They fight.)
- Do people fight today if they want something? (Yes, they do. If they do not get what they want they might get angry or even try to take what they want.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: two children arguing over a toy. Engage the children by asking:**

- What are the children arguing about? (The toy.)
- Why do you think they are arguing about the toy? (They both want the same toy.)
- Do they have God in their hearts? (No, they want the toy more than they want God.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Why do you think our parents do not always give us what we want? (We don't always want what is best for us. Ask the children to give some examples such as eating a whole carton of ice cream at once or staying out to play after dark.)
- Why do you think God does not always give us what we want? (We don't always want what is best for us. And, God wants us to love him more than anything in the world.)
- Did you want something that your parents did not give you because they thought it would not be good for you? (Explain that God works through their parents. God is in control of everything and uses parents to care for children.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

In James 4:4, James charges the people with this rebuke, "You adulterous people." This is not because the people were struggling in the area of physical adultery but because they had not loved God but turned to other loves. This is such a serious sin because God has demonstrated His love in the most profound way by sending his own Son to take the punishment for our sins. When we covet something in the world, we are rejecting God's love and the relationship He extends to us in Christ. God wants our pleasures, our desires, and our love to be focused upon Christ.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*



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