

Family Devotional

From February 19, 2017

Try this: Have one person go to the opposite side of the room from you and then you say something in a very soft whisper. In a louder voice ask if they heard what you said. If they didn't hear you, both take a small step towards each other. Keep repeating this pattern, still talking in a soft whisper, until you can hear each other easily. Now return to your original places on opposite sides of the room and have the others in your group talk to you while you try to do the same thing. If just two people are doing the activity, turn on music or the TV to act as the distraction. Once you're finished turn off all distractions and come back together as a group.

Was it harder to hear the person whispering when you were farther apart or closer together?
What about when other people were talking? Was it hard to stay focused on the person whispering?
What did you have to do in order to hear them?

Did this activity remind you of life sometimes? Maybe you're trying to hear what God is saying to you, but there are all sorts of distractions trying to get your attention. Let's read the following verses and see what advice James gives.

Read: James 4:7-10

Reflect:

- What does it mean to submit?
- What are some distractions in your life that keep you from hearing God clearly?
- What does it look like to resist?
- Have you experienced a time when you felt nearer or farther from God? What was that like?
- What are ways you can draw nearer to God?
- What do you think it means to humble yourself before God?
- What does He promise to do when we humble ourselves before him?

The best news is that God doesn't ask us to do any of this by ourselves. Most other religions focus on a person following a certain list of rules in order to reach a higher point. Jesus doesn't ask us to reach a certain level of "goodness" before we become a Christian. All he asks is for us to recognize that we need Him and accept the forgiveness and grace Jesus offers us!

Jesus wants to be our partner and guide on the journey of life, helping us to know him more fully through the journey. The "good" things we do are not an effort to reach him, but a response of being with Him.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on James 4:8a this week.

"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you drawing near to me and walking with me every day. Help me resist the temptation and distractions in life that try to steal my attention away from youAmen."