

Draw near to God; your life is a mist

James 4:1–17 · Seventeen verses · Song: “Draw Near”

The picture: A merchant with a money bag at his belt sets off for the city on the hill, and from the waist down he is already fading into mist.



PICTURE WORD

Mist

THE CHAPTER IN BRIEF



tomorrow we'll trade and make money? Your life is a mist.

Remember it: FOUR plans (go, stay a year, trade, profit), and a mist. Chapter 4: if the Lord wills.

MEMORY VERSE

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Clean your hands, you sinners; make your hearts pure, you double-minded.

James 4:8 · the author's translation

GREEK WORD

ἐγγίσατε

“draw near” · verse 8

In James: three times, in 2 chapters

In the Greek Old Testament this is the word for priests drawing near to God in worship. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (4:8). In 5:8 James uses the same verb for the Lord's coming, which “is near.” The one we draw near to is drawing near to us.

HOW THE CHAPTER MOVES

1–3 Where fights come from: you do not have because you do not ask.

4–10 Friendship with the world, or draw near to God.

11–12 Do not speak against one another; there is one Judge.

13–17 Your life is a mist: say, “If the Lord wants it.”

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

v. 6 ← Prov 3:34 “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

MY NOTES



Listen. Hear James 4 sung in the **James by Heart** app, or free at ispress.de/james/songs/4.

The song: “Draw Near.” Every verse of the chapter is sung.

Where fights come from

Friendship with the world

Draw near to God

If the Lord wills

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Tomorrow we'll _____ and make money? Your _____ is a _____.

CHECK YOURSELF

1. Why do you not have?

(A) Because God is stingy

(C) Because you work too little

(B) Because you do not ask

(D) Because the rich take it

2. If you draw near to God, what will he do?

(A) Test you

(C) Send you away

(B) Draw near to you

(D) Make you rich

3. What is your life?

(A) A mist that shows up for a moment

(C) A long road

(B) A strong tower

(D) A city that lasts

TALK IT OVER

1. James says fights come from desires at war inside us. Where have you seen that be true?

2. What does it look like, day to day, to “draw near to God”?

3. How would saying “If the Lord wants it” change the way you make plans for next year?

IN YOUR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOES JAMES 4 TEACH?

☐ I listened to the song

☐ I can say 4:8 by heart

☐ I can say what it teaches

☐ I know the picture word