

## THE LINK

*Devotional Living  
Guide, October, 19  
2008*

**Sugar River United  
Methodist Church**

### **Prayer Link**

*Prayers for the  
community*

### **Praise & Thanksgiving**

The fall colors  
provided by God!

### **Pray for God's Healing Touch on...**

Ava Wzierba  
Mike Cook

### **Pray for...**

George Ross, job  
search

Sugar River leaders'  
trip to attend the  
Change the World  
Conference in Ohio.

American Troops &  
their families.

E-Prayer Chain: A group of  
people have covenanted to  
pray for special requests they  
receive periodically via e-  
mail. Please send your  
request to  
[sugarriverumc@tds.net](mailto:sugarriverumc@tds.net)  
(Quicker response and more  
confidential)

Prayer Link Listing: If you  
would like to have your  
concern listed in this weekly  
publication, please contact  
the church office:  
[sugarriverumc@tds.net](mailto:sugarriverumc@tds.net) or  
315.5055

## **James – The Christian Life Manual How to Live with Faith and Humility**

James 4

### **Inspirational Link**

*Thoughts &  
insights from  
Worship*

### **The Word Link**

*Daily Readings  
from God's  
Word*

The book of James deals with the practical side of faith, which means trusting God even in hard times. We will reflect upon the challenges to understand faith and its relationship to wisdom for living each day of our lives.

Resources: Life Lessons with Max Lucado: James, 2007.

### **Monday, October 20 – Read James 4:1-10**

Max Lucado gives this reflection upon our theme of wisdom: "According to James, we can live for God—giving up our rights and trusting him to provide; or we can live like the world—claiming our rights. Too often there is just as much selfish bickering going in the church as in the world. When was the last time you humbled yourself and admitted you were wrong about something?" This wisdom carries with it the character of

humility...a major theme is chapter 4 of James. When conflict arises, what is our response? For James, it is important that we understand what causes conflicts. What causes the “wars” within us and around us in our relationships?

**Tuesday, October 21 – Reread James 4:1-10**

As James identifies the human tendency toward selfishness and insists that the answer must be submission to God, what does it mean to you to be a “friend of the world?” List some of the ways we can stand against the devil (vv. 7-9). What promise is given to those who draw near to God? What are we to lament or mourn over? Why do we resist relying on and submitting to God? How can humbling ourselves before God affect our other relationships? When have you been convinced that you knew God’s will for you? What convinced you?

**Wednesday, October 22 – Reread James 4:1-10**

List areas of your life that are difficult for you to turn over to God’s control. What truth in this lesson encourages you to trust God more fully? (Here are some Bible passages on trusting God; Psalm 62: 8; 143:8; Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 25:9; Nahum 1:7; Romans 10:11)

**Thursday, October 23 – Read James 4:11-17**

“No one plans to fail, but many fail to plan.” goes the saying. Planning is big in our culture. We set our goals, and we feel pretty good when we reach them. We are in control when we make our plans happen. right? What is one of your long range goals? How would you feel if you could not accomplish it? –Max Lucado. To this point, James has taught about the balance of faith and works, the challenges of the tongue, and the peaceful wisdom that comes only from God. However, there is still a great danger in the life of the church because of PRIDE. It appears that James was addressing an issue in the church that stemmed from gossiping and lying and self-righteous judgment. What does James say about speaking against others in the church (or anywhere for that matter)? In what ways do we judge others and end up judging “the law?”

**Friday, October 24 – Reread James 4:11-17**

When does planning turn into boastful pride? What attitude does God want us to have about the future? Why? Why is God not satisfied that we simply know to do good? Why is humility harder to practice than pride? What part does pride play in judging others? Who do you know who demonstrates a spirit of humility? What have you learned from that person? How has pride damaged your relationship with God or others? How can you begin to bring change and healing to those relationships? What steps can you take to develop a spirit of humility as you plan for the future?

**Saturday, October 25 – Reread James 4:11-17**

“When Jesus told us not to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34), he was not rejecting the importance of planning. In fact worrying about tomorrow is sometimes an indication that we haven’t planned enough. James’s counsel is to prepare for what we can, always acknowledging God’s ultimate control over tomorrow. Trusting God is the best way to keep from being consumed by worry or betrayed by arrogance in assuming that tomorrow will run as we’ve planned.” – Max Lucado. For more Bible passages on pride, see Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 18; Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 5:5. What lessons do you learn from these passages? Look to the next section of the link and, followed by prayer, complete the phrase...

**The Spirit Link**  
*God’s Action Point  
for my Life*

I feel led by God to...

