

"Straight Up" – April 20th
"The YOUiverse"

Big Idea: "I am NOT the Center of the Universe"

In our "it's all about me" society we find little need to exercise control over our impulses. It feels right and powerful to make us the center of the universe. The lesson today will challenge us to not see ourselves as the center but to be centered in the universe.

On our own it is impossible to resist the devil and the ensuing troubles we encounter when we submit to him rather than submitting to God and His power. As arrogance is replaced by humility God lovingly provides us what we need to stand against temptation. We are challenges to stand with Him the Creator and Master. Will we humble ourselves today?

Open It: This is your lucky day. You have been given permission to eat something as much as you want all day and you will get sick or gain weight. What would you choose to eat?

Dig It: Read James 4:1-10

1. What causes the "wars within us" and in our relationships? (vs.1-2)
What are some of the "battles" that are going on inside of you?
2. Verse 3 says we ask God with wrong motives. What are examples of right and wrong motives in prayer?
3. What are some examples of having a "friendship with the world.?" (vs. 4-5)
4. In verses 7-9 there are several items listed that are necessary for us to approach God. List them and discuss what you think they mean. How do these contribute to a humble Spirit?
5. Talk about how God's Grace is unleashed with our humility? (vs. 4,10)

Reflect on It:

1. Consider the relationships in your life where there are quarrels or hostility. What battles within you contribute to the tension?
2. How has a lack of humility caused you difficulty in your life?

Do It:

1. What have you learned about the "battles within you?"
2. Pray as a group for our hearts to be humble?

