	Submission to What Matters Most
 **BIG IDEA**	Nobody decides one day to be unfaithful to God. It happens slowly, through small compromises with the world around us. James calls us to stop dividing our affections and come back under God's authority: submit to Him, resist the enemy, and draw near, because the God who is jealous for us also gives us more grace.
 **ICE BREAKER**	1. What helps you stay close to the people you love when life gets busy? 2. Have you ever drifted into a habit or routine so gradually that you didn't notice how you got there? 3. What is something you made a change for, or gave up, that turned out to be worth it?
 **MAIN POINTS**	Friendship with the world is a kind of spiritual adultery. Pastor Shan used his 29 years of marriage to help us imagine how it would feel if his wife divided her devotion between him and someone else. James says God feels something similar when we divide our affections between Him and the world: "Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?" (James 4:4). "The world" doesn't mean the planet or people, it means the cultural system that has rejected God and says you are what you have, achieve, and what others say about you. James is not telling us to avoid people who don't know Jesus. The question is whether we are influencing them more than they are influencing us. Unfaithfulness happens slowly: friendship, pollution, affection, conformity. Lot is the clearest picture. He pitched his tent near Sodom (friendship), then moved inside the city (pollution), then sat in its gateway with a position and reputation (affection), and when God warned of judgment, he hesitated and his own family thought he was joking (conformity). The same pattern shows up today, whether in marriage (a working lunch becomes after-work drinks becomes an affair), dating (a person who is not a believer but "will come to church eventually"), or screens that quietly take our time and devotion. Pastor Shan cited a survey showing that about 1 in 8 men ages 18 to 29 gamble, play video games, and watch pornography every day, and the numbers were the same for young men of faith. If you feel the weight of this, that is not condemnation, it is conviction. God is jealous for you because He loves you. James says God "jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us" and "gives us more grace" (James 4:5-6). Jealousy is not always unhealthy. If a spouse shrugged off a divided heart, that would be indifference, not love. God fights for us, and the grace He gives is Jesus, who paid for our sin on the cross. It is out of that grace that James moves from accusation to invitation. Submit to God, resist the devil, and draw near. "Submit" is a military word that means to

	take your proper rank under the one in command, and throughout Scripture the posture of submission is kneeling. Resisting the devil starts with submitting to God, then pulling up every foothold, or "tent stake," we have handed over (Ephesians 4:27): name the sin, confess it, and make a change. Then "come near to God and he will come near to you" (James 4:8). The posture of the heart matters, and it starts with letting go of pride. God has never moved, we are the ones who have moved, and He will bring us back. Lot pitched his tent near Sodom, but Abraham pitched his tent near an altar (Genesis 13:18), and one moved toward the world while the other moved toward God. For those ready to surrender, baptism is the picture of it, a burying of the old life and rising to a new one.
 **DISCUSS**	1. Why do you think James uses such strong language, calling his readers "adulterers"? What does that say about how God sees our relationship with Him? 2. What does James mean by "the world," and how is that different from the people around us? 3. Where do you see the pattern of friendship, pollution, affection, and conformity showing up today in relationships, work, dating, or screens? 4. Where might you have set up your tent too close to Sodom? Where is there something in your life you want more than you want God? 5. What does it look like in daily life to submit to God and pull up a "tent stake"?
 **NEXT STEP**	Jesus First: Set aside time this week to kneel in prayer. Submit specific areas of your life to God, such as finances, relationships, sexuality, generosity, and your words, and ask Him which tent stake you need to pull up. People Always: Be a good influence on the people in your life who don't know Jesus, and be honest with a trusted friend or your Group about where you may be compromising. Don't fight it alone. Made for More: Take a step toward the altar. Name the sin, confess it, and make a change. If you have not yet been baptized as a follower of Jesus, talk to your Group leader or a pastor about taking that step.
 **SCRIPTURE**	James 4:4-10 Genesis 13:12-13 Genesis 13:18 Ephesians 4:27 Philippians 2:10-11 Romans 6
 **NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK**	Join us next weekend as Pastor Shan continues our Faith That Works series in James with "Faithful Prayer." Invite someone to join you and don't miss the journey ahead!