

C. Draw near to **God** (v 8a).

*“He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.”*  
Psalm 147:3

*“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts”*  
Jeremiah 15:16

D. Turn from **sin** (vs 8b-9).

*“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”* Proverbs 28:13

E. **Forgive** (vs 11-12).

*“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”* Ephesians 4:32

*“Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.”*  
Proverbs 26:20

*“17 Repay no one evil for evil. Hav regard for good things in the sight of all men.*

*18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

*19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”*  
Romans 12:17-19

*“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.”*  
I Corinthians 4:5

### HOW DO YOU NEED TO APPLY GOD’S WISDOM TO YOUR MODERN FAMILY?

## MODERN FAMILY God’s Wisdom For Today’s Families Modern Family Hurt Pastor Steve Reynolds

### INTRODUCTION

A. Modern families have major problems! We no longer live in a culture where the majority of homes include two parents with 2.3 kids and a white picket fence. The reality is modern family life is extremely complex, often dysfunctional and very painful. Is there any hope? YES! God has timeless wisdom for today’s families. He knows and cares and wants to help your family thrive.

*“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

Joshua 24:15

B. You’re invited to attend this powerful series on the modern day family. You will discover how to have healthy relationships in whatever family situation whether single, married, kids, empty nester, whatever.

Oct 7	Modern Family Purpose
Oct 14	Modern Family Busyness
Oct 21	Modern Family Singleness
Oct 28	Modern Family Marriage
Nov 4	Modern Family Technology
Nov 11	Modern Family Communication
TODAY	Modern Family Hurt
Nov 25	Modern Family Sexuality
Dec 2	Modern Family Parenting
Dec 9	Modern Family Finances

C. **TEXT:** James 4:1-12 (Pew Bible/Pg. 1186/New Test.)

## MODERN FAMILY HURT

### I. THE CAUSE OF HURT: **SIN** (4:1-5)

“Sin is disobedience to God and selfishness towards others.”  
—Pastor Gary Moritz

*“6 So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?”*

*7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”*

*8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”* Genesis 4:6-8

The word **“desire”** used here by James speaks of unsatisfied lust.

Three conflicting desires which cause family hurt:

#### A. The Desire for **Possessions** (v 2).

Illustration: Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13:1-12)

Worldly Philosophy: “He who dies with the most toys wins.”

We live in a materialistic age. We should love people and use things, but materialism often causes us to love things and use people.

#### B. The Desire for **Pleasure** (v 3).

*“12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood.*

*13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.”* Luke 15:12-13

Worldly Philosophy: “If it feels good, do it!”

People today want to feel good. Comfort is a high priority. But when pleasure takes over, then there will be trouble.

#### C. The Desire for **Power** (vs 4-5).

*“11 And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

*24 Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.”* Genesis 37:11,24

Worldly Philosophy: “Whatever it takes to get to the top.”

Our society is power hungry. This often leads to very selfish behavior.

### II. THE CURE FOR HURT: **GRACE** (4:6-12)

Grace in hurt is God’s power to **help** and **heal**.

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”* II Corinthians 9:8

*“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* II Corinthians 12:9

Five acts of grace which heal family hurt:

#### A. Be **humble** (vs 6-7a, 10).

*“By pride comes nothing but strife,...”* Proverbs 13:10a

#### B. Resist the **devil** (v 7b).

*“8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith,...”* I Peter 5:8-9a

*“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”* II Corinthians 2:11