

# Discussion Guide

*Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).*

## **Opening Prayer:**

Spend time quieting your hearts and asking God to speak clearly through His Word and the group discussion.

## **Scripture:**

Read James 4:13-16.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Share a time when one of your plans was completely disrupted. What happened and how did you respond?
2. What does James 4:13-14 reveal about our assumptions when we make plans? How does it challenge modern ideas of self sufficiency?
3. Why do you think we are so drawn to planning? What comfort or illusion does it provide?
4. What's the difference between making wise plans and idolizing your plans? Where is the line?
5. How does James describe the nature of life in verse 14? What emotions does that evoke—fear, peace, urgency?
6. What does it look like to live with verse 15 in mind: "If the Lord wants us to ..."? How do you practically incorporate God into your daily decision-making?
7. Can you think of a time when God changed your plans and it turned out better than expected? What did you learn about God from that?
8. What are the dangers of boasting about your own plans, according to verse 16? Why does James use such strong language?
9. What are some current plans you are making (career, family, finances)? Are these plans open to God's leading or are they tightly held?
10. What might it look like for you to surrender a specific plan to God this week? How can the group support you in this?

## **Activity:**

*Supplies: index cards, pens, a small basket or bowl*

Each person receives two index cards. On the first card, write a plan you are currently holding tightly (i.e. job change, financial goal, family situation). On the second card, write a prayer of surrender that begins: "God, I give this plan to You because I trust You more than myself ..." Fold the plan cards and place them in the basket (symbolizing surrender to God). Keep the prayer cards in a Bible, journal or wallet as a reminder. Close with prayer. Each person can read their prayer aloud or you can offer a collective prayer of surrender over the plans in the basket.

## **Challenge:**

Begin each morning this week with a simple prayer: "God, what do You want me to do today? I trust You with my plans."