

Be Careful of
SLANDERING
and **SUPPOSING**
James 4:11-17

1. When I **SLANDER** a brother or sister, I am speaking evil against **GOD**. (v.11; Exodus 20:16, 23;1; Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 34:13, 101:5; Proverbs 11:9; Matthew 12:36; Ephesians 4:31; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:1,12; 3:16)
2. When I judge someone's heart, I am **PLAYING GOD**. (v.12; Genesis 50:19; 1 Samuel 2:6; Isaiah 33:22; Psalm 75:7; Matthew 7:1; Luke 6:37; John 8:15-16; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:4; 1 Corinthians 4:5)
3. Don't **COUNT** your **CHICKENS** before they **HATCH!** (vv.13,14; 1 Kings 20:11; Psalm 31:15, 39:4, 90:12; Proverbs 19:2, 21:5, 27:1; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Isaiah 55:8,9; Luke 12:16-20; Acts 18:21)
4. May I seek **GOD'S WILL** before I prematurely launch into my own **PURSUIITS**. (v.15,16; Psalm 25:4-5; Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:9; Matthew 6:33, 26:39; Acts 18:21; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:17; Hebrews 6:3; James 1:5)
5. When I know what is right, I am **ACCOUNTABLE** for what I accordingly **DO**. (v.17; Matthew 7:26-27, 12:36, 23:23; Luke 12:47-48; John 9:41, 13:17, 15:22; Romans 2:18, 14:12; Hebrews 5:14; 1 John 3:17)



Taking it further to help you THRIVE...

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See *you next week*" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!

For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit thrivekg.org/thrive-groups.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. In verse 1, James says, "the one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law." What does he mean by speaking evil against / judging the law?
3. In what kinds of situations and circumstances are you tempted to 'play God' by judging other people's hearts and motives? Why should we not do this? What should we do instead?
4. In Matthew 7:1, Jesus says, "Judge not, that you be not judged." This verse is frequently quoted, but often out of context. Read Matthew 7:1-5. What kind of judging is Jesus talking about, and why is this wrong? Is there ever a time when a form of 'judging' is right in the church? If so, when / why?
5. Share a time when you have 'counted your chickens before they hatched' - and regretted it.
6. In verses 13-16, is James saying that it is wrong to make plans? Why? Why not? At what point does planning go wrong?
7. We know that life is a gift. How should "numbering our days" (Psalm 90:12), embracing the brevity of life (James says life is a mist), and yielding to the Lord's will inform our daily habits, choices, and outlook?