



# IF THE LORD WILLS

WEEK 8 / JAMES 4:13-17 / SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## BIG IDEA

**Planning is wise; presuming control over tomorrow is not. Because life is brief and God is sovereign, we plan, work, and act with humble dependence: if the Lord wills.**

## READ TOGETHER

**James 4:13-17 | Notice what the planners assume and what James calls them to remember.**

## INTO THE SERMON

LOOK BACK AT SUNDAY

- 1 What idea, phrase, or illustration from Sunday's sermon stayed with you most? What made it memorable?
- 2 Pastor Sam said the problem is not the calendar but the assumption that time belongs to us. How did the sermon distinguish wise planning from presumption?

## INTO THE TEXT

OPEN JAMES 4

- 1 Read James 4:13. What do the planners claim they will control? Which parts of their plan are spoken with certainty?
- 2 Read verse 14. What two limits does James expose about us? What does the image of a mist teach about time, control, and dependence?

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## INTO THE TEXT

LIVE DEPENDENTLY

- 3 Read verses 15-16. What does 'if the Lord wills' acknowledge about God and about us? Why does James call the opposite posture arrogant boasting?
- 4 Read verse 17. How does James expand sin beyond doing wrong to include failing to do the good we already know?

## APPLICATION

HOLD PLANS LOOSELY

- 1 Where are we most tempted to plan as though outcomes, time, or tomorrow belong to us? How could prayer reshape the way we make those plans?
- 2 The sermon asked, 'How about right now?' What good action, conversation, confession, or act of obedience are we tempted to postpone?

## THIS WEEK

CHOOSE ONE

- Read James 4:13-17 each morning and begin the day by saying, "If the Lord wills."
- Pray over your calendar and ask where God may want margin for people or interruption.
- Choose one future plan and name what you control, what you do not, and what belongs to God.
- Do one right thing now: make the call, confess, reconcile, serve, give, or obey without delay.

MEMORY VERSE / JAMES 4:15

"Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."