

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer

2. Welcome any newcomers

3. Read James 4:13-17 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, James 4:13-17

June 5, 2014

Title: Does Your Life Say There is Not a God, or There is One?

Der mentsh trakht un got lakht. That's a Yiddish proverb. It means "Man plans and God laughs." Have you ever thought of God laughing at you? Or maybe He just shakes His head at our misplaced faith. What tremendous faith it takes to plan the future in this world where nothing is certain—not even our next breath! When you think of it, doesn't it take just a little faith to trust God who is always faithful? He has proven Himself in the past, cares for us now, and has our future planned. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Question: Verse 13 sounds like a business plan, but it lacks details. What do you think? Can any of you think of a time when plans you made paid off? How about a time when they didn't?

Question: Compare verses 13-17 with Matthew 25:14-30 and discuss how the passages are similar and how they are different. Is James telling us we should not make business plans while Matthew in the Parable of the Talents tells us we should?

Question: We all have to make plans, even if it's just a grocery list for the food we'll need next week. The question James would be asking is to whom do you submit your plans? Have you ever thought of submitting your grocery list to the Lord? How about your investment portfolio? Your insurance policy? Your budget? Your giving?

Question: Is failure to submit your plans to the Lord the same as boasting? How is it arrogant to leave God out of your plans?

Question: Read verse 17. How can doing the wrong thing and not doing the right thing both be sin? How do we know the right thing to do? How do we know what's wrong, so we don't do it?