

Stay in Your Lane

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | James 4:11–17

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group discussion. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. Soli Deo Gloria.

ICE BREAKER:

What is the wildest moment you've had where you made plans, but life reminded you that 'you don't know what tomorrow will bring'?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Christian judgement: Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 alongside James 4:11-12. When should Christian judgement be used and when should it not? What is the standard?

Human plans: Read Proverbs 16:1-3,9; Proverbs 19:21; Acts 18:20-21 alongside James 4:13-17. How should we think about God's involvement in the plans of our lives? Also, what does this say about the purpose for our lives?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

Read Mark 12:28-31. What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? Why is this so important to Jesus, so much that it's the 'second greatest commandment'?

How does judging others and speaking evilly disrespect this great commandment, and the One who gave the commandment?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

How do we honor the law and not judge our brothers and sisters? How do we remain humble when correction is needed for a brother or sister in Christ?

How have you been prideful in your planning? What does it look like to plan in a godly way?

In what way do we act like we are our own gods? Is confession needed – either to another person we have spoken ill of, or to God whom we've ignored in our planning?

Pray together that our words and our plans this week would show that we know that we are God's — that we are God's children — and not look like we think we are our own gods.

PARENTING MOMENT AND FAMILY FOCUS:

Spend some time with your kids talking about what it looks like to love your neighbor as yourself, especially when it comes to our words.

FURTHER STUDY:

From the ministry Stand to Reason (str.org) read 'Use Your Knowledge to Serve Others, Not Judge Them.'
From Desiring God ministries (DesiringGod.org) read 'Few Are the Plans of Many: The Wisdom in Scheduling Well.'



True Religion

THE BOOK OF JAMES

This page gets us into the text for the next sermon. The more familiarity we have with God's Word, the better we can see God and all that He has for us.

In the days leading up to next weekend, set aside a few minutes to read the text and reflect on these questions. A prayer to start: 'Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things out of your law' - Psalm 119:18

- 1. For the rich, how is their wealth described? What does it result in?**
- 2. How have the 'laborers' been mistreated?**
- 3. How do the 'harvesters' respond?**
- 4. What in this text confuses you?**
- 5. What in this text compels you?**
- 6. With the details of this text in mind, slowly pray through the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).**