

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Boast in God's Plans, Not Your Plans****APPLY // JAMES 4:11-12**

Main Idea: God is judge, we are not.

1. Read James 4:1-12.
2. Summarize the main theme(s) of James up to this point in the letter. What's his concern? His aim?
3. What root causes lead us to speak evil and judge our fellow brothers and sisters?
4. When we sinfully speak about or judge fellow Christians, we're actually speaking evil and judging the Lord and his word. Why is this the case? How does this truth help us understand the weight of our sin?
5. How does/should the gospel change our perspective and priorities, enabling us to speak well of others and be charitable toward them, even when we disagree?
6. How does humility promote unity in the ways we speak about and treat each other?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // 4:13-17

Main Idea: God is infinite, we are not. This perspective must shape our plans and priorities.

1. Read James 4:13-17.
2. In verse 13, what do you observe about the content of those speaking? What do you observe about the posture of those speaking? What do you observe about the motivations of those speaking?
3. What ISN'T James' concern in their words/posture? What IS James' concern about their words/posture?
4. What corrective does James bring in verse 14? What perspective is James encouraging his readers to have? Can you think of other Scriptures that reinforce what James is teaching? (Cf. Is. 40:6-8; Ps. 39:5; 103:14-16; 144:4; Luke 12:13-21).
5. In verse 15, what does James mean when he writes, "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills...'"? How is this posture of heart consistent with what James has been saying about humility?
6. In verse 15, what does James say the people are doing when they live as verse 13 describes? What does James mean by calling their boasting arrogant?
7. Notice that he also calls this boasting evil. Why is this boasting "evil"?
8. What is James conclusion in verse 17? What point is James driving at in this verse, and how does it fit the context of what he's said in verses 13-16?
9. How do these verses shape our trust and love for Jesus? How does the gospel enable us to have the perspective James is calling us to have?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How are your relationships with fellow brothers and sisters inside the church? Are you

speaking well of them and pursuing them that you might help them follow Jesus?