

4

LEADER LESSON

JAMES 4:13-15



LEADER TEACHER TIP:

When a student answers a question correctly, periodically ask him/her "Are you sure about that?"

1. Let the student think that you think that he/she gave an incorrect answer and let them wrestle through their answer and see if they defend it.
2. As the other students in the group "Do you think he/she is right or wrong?"
3. If the student does defend their answer, tell them "Your answer is 100% correct. Great job standing firm and being able to explain it and defend it. Way to go!"

INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

PRAY

Open your time in prayer.

CHECKPOINT

REVIEW: Can you share a moment when you noticed yourself seeking approval or praise from others? Next, reflect on a time when you felt tempted to be a friend of the world instead of a friend of God. How did you ask God for help, and what was the outcome?

ENGAGE

To view the engage video, please see the instructions stored on the back of the TV in your room.

READ JAMES 4:13-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES):

1. What plans do the people in verse 13 have?
 - *Answer: "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business, and make money."*
2. What reason does James give for discouraging people from making plans?
 - *Answer: Because they do not even know what will happen tomorrow.*
3. Think about a time when something unexpected changed your plans. How did this affect your understanding of control?
4. In verses 13-14, is James saying that it is bad to make plans?
 - *Answer: No, he's not because, in verse 15, he encourages Christians to make plans beginning with acknowledging God's ultimate control of everything. Christians should make plans by saying, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*
5. The illusion of control means we think we're in control of our lives. In what areas are you tempted to believe in the illusion of control?
6. Why does James compare life to a mist?
 - *Answer: When compared to eternity, our life on earth will seem like a mist.*
7. What changes can you make in your life after working through this passage?

CHECKPOINT CHALLENGE... how to apply this (10 MINUTES):

This week, challenge your students to write down areas where they believe in the illusion of control and surrender them to God praying *"If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

CLOSING PRAYER IDEA: (10 MINUTES)

Split up into clusters and every student share 1 praise & 1 prayer request and the student on the right prays over them.

DIVE DEEPER

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO DIVE DEEPER AFTER TONIGHT

CROSS REFERENCES

Humility and Trust in God's Control:

Proverbs 3:5-6
1 Peter 5:6-7

The Illusion of Control:

Proverbs 16:9
Luke 12:16-21 - The Parable
of the Rich Fool, which
warns against storing up
earthly wealth without
being "rich toward God."

The Fleeting Nature of Life

Psalm 39:5
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

God's Ultimate Control:

Romans 8:28
Matthew 6:33-34