



Now Listen Up! James 4:13-5:6
Small Group Questions
Week of February 22, 2026

Icebreaker:

What's one time your plans completely changed—either unexpectedly good or frustratingly hard?

Optional Opening Activity:

Spend a few minutes listing and sharing answers to the question, when you think about the future, what gives you the most security? Does reading James 4:14 change your answers? How does that image make you feel? Is it comforting, sobering, motivating?

Discussion Questions:

James 4:13–17 — Planning and Control

1. What assumptions are the people in 4:13 making about their future?
2. What does James mean when he says our life is “a mist,” and why is that important?
3. Is James warning against planning — or something deeper? What's the real issue?
4. What might it look like in everyday life to say, “If the Lord wills”?

James 5:1–6 — Wealth and Misplaced Security

5. What specific sins does James accuse the rich of in this passage?
6. Is wealth itself the problem here, or how it is gained and used? Explain.
7. How can money subtly become a source of security or identity for us today?

Big Picture

1. What do these two sections reveal about the dangers of self-sufficiency — whether in our plans or our wealth?
2. How does remembering the brevity of life and the certainty of God's judgment reshape what we pursue and trust in?
3. Where is the line between wise stewardship and self-reliant independence?
4. What hope, if any, do you see in this passage?

Personal Reflection

If your life is a mist and your resources are temporary, what is one concrete change God may be calling you to make this week?

Optional prayer to close: “Lord, we confess that we often live as if we are in control — of our time, our plans, and our resources. Forgive us for the ways we rely on ourselves instead of You. Teach us to hold our future with open hands. Shape our plans with Your will. Guard our hearts from finding security in money or success.

Help us live with humility, urgency, and compassion — remembering that our lives are a mist and that You are the One who endures forever. Show us one practical way this week to trust You more fully.”