

THE BOOK OF JAMES

STUDY EIGHT – JAMES 4:10-17

Read James 4:10

1) In what areas of your life do you often find it most practically obey this instruction?

James continues to challenge different areas of our lives and behaviours that we often struggle to humble ourselves before God. The next one is the way we speak against others.

Read James 4:11-12

2) James says judging others is really judging God's law. Remembering how James speaks about God's law in 2:8, what is James challenging here in the way we speak?

3) Where does critical or judgemental talk show up most easily for you? What circumstances or people are you most tempted to display this lack of humility before God in your speech?

4) Scripture doesn't ban confrontation. Elsewhere we are called to lovingly address sin in each other's lives (Read Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2). What's the difference between these confrontations and the sinful speech James is challenging?

James moves on to challenge people on how they plan, how they think about their future.

Read James 4:13-17

6) James pictures people confidently planning out their year like it's guaranteed to them. Where do you catch yourself doing this in a way that lacks humility and assumes control?

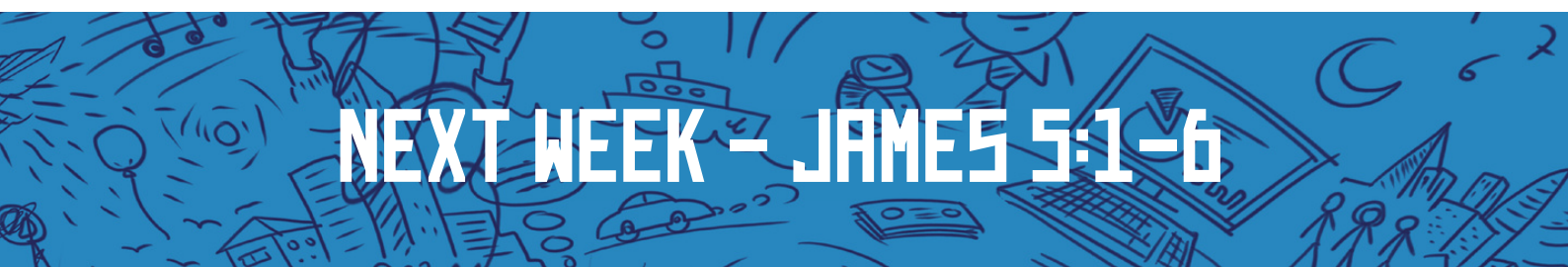
7) "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (v15) isn't a magic phrase to tack on the end of a sentence. What would it actually look like to plan with that posture rather than just saying the words?

Verses 17 states that "knowing the good you ought to do and not doing it is sin." Here James realigns how we should plan and think about the future?

If you consider both your short term schedules and long term planning...

8) What "good" might you be postponing? (Consider also what is the good God wants us to do without making a vague "loving others")

9) Is there part of your schedule or plans that you need to reconsider and change to humble yourself before God and focus on the good He has prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10)?



NEXT WEEK – JAMES 5:1-6