



## James: Making Our Plans

Pastor Brian Lusky

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### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Get to know each other a little more- who are hard-core planners and who flies by the seat of his/her pants? How does this affect relationships?
2. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
3. Read **James 4:13-17**. James makes it clear that the future is uncertain, but we view it as so important. How do you feel about your future? Why is it important to you?
4. Brian's big idea is ***Make plans—let God change them***. Read **Proverbs 27:1**. When does making plans become arrogant or prideful? What does it look like to make plans in humility?
5. Brian's three points reflect a posture of humility and God-centered attitude toward making plans:
  - a. *Your future should be subject to the sovereignty of God.*
  - b. *Your future should be attentive to the counsel of God.*
  - c. *Your future should be obedient to the will of God.*
6. With these three points in mind, read some examples in Scripture of people with a self-centered attitude or a God-centered attitude toward the future and/or making plans. How did their futures look compared to what they had hoped/planned for?
  - a. Parable of the Rich Fool- **Luke 12:16-21**
  - b. The Wise and Foolish Builders- **Luke 6:46-49**
  - c. Hannah- **1 Samuel 1:9-2:11**
  - d. Joseph- **Genesis 37:3-11, 45:4-11**
7. Consider God's words to Israel through His prophet in **Jeremiah 29:1-14**. Their exile was punishment for not obeying the Lord, but what hope does the Lord give them here about their future and what instruction does He give them for the present?

**Next Steps:** Prayerfully meditate on these questions, asking God for His wisdom: How are you trusting more in yourself than in God? Where do you need to spend more time seeking God's will before you move? What are you not doing that you need to ask forgiveness for and start doing?

**Prayer Thought:** Allow the meditation questions to guide your prayer time. Allow time for quiet individual prayer then move into a time of praising God for His sovereignty, confessing how we control our lives without surrendering to Him, thanking Him for His wisdom and guidance, and asking Him for wisdom in specific decisions/plans in our lives.