

The Best Way to Plan (1/9/22)

Main Verses: James 4:13-17

Key Verse: James 4:15

'Takeaway': God wants us to trust him with what happens next, not plan as though we don't need him.

Getting Started: Have you ever planned something (even if just in your mind) and have it not happen? How did you react?



READ the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- How do you feel/react when things don't go your way?
- Who is in control of everything?
- What is the one thing that will last forever?

Elementary:

- What does it mean to be a control freak?
- When we say God is Sovereign, what do you think that means?
- Do you think it's wrong to make plans? Who do we need to include as we make them?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- In these verses, the merchant ignores God on purpose when he makes his plans.
- God wants us to turn to him with our hopes and plans, knowing that he is always good and always faithful.
- God is in charge of everything. His will and his plans will always happen.
- If we know something is good to do and don't do it it is sin.

Elementary:

- James, in these verses, is addressing a merchant who had big plans on how to make a profit of leaving God out of his plans. This merchant has a (secular) worldview that ignores God.
- When we don't entrust our hopes and plans to God and his counsel we are arrogant and showing unbelief.
- Life is temporary. God is sovereign and eternal. It is His will that conditions our course in life. We don't see the big picture, but God does, and he guides and directs all of life according to his plan and will.
- Failing to do good when we know the right thing to do is also sin.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for his goodness and his faithfulness, no matter what is happening around us. Tell God how much you need him and ask him to help you to trust him and his plan for all things.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for his gift of salvation. Thank him for his faithfulness and for his sovereignty. Tell God how much you need him to guide your life and help you. Ask God to help you trust and obey him in all things, knowing that his way and plan are perfect.