

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Open your group with a prayer. Use this sheet as a guide; select the points you want to discuss.

### GETTING STARTED

1. What plans, big or small, are you making now?
2. Read James 4:13-17.

### DIGGING DEEPER

3. In v. 13, what's missing from the businesspersons' plans? Why is this omission so wrong?
4. Read Luke 12:16-21. How does this parable illustrate James' point?
5. Read verse 14a. Can you tell of a time when your plans were interrupted or dashed?
6. Read verse 14b and relate this to Psalm 90:12.
7. According to James, what's wrong with self-reliance?
8. In v. 15 James suggests the proper Christian attitude. What is it?
9. Look up Rom 1:10; 15:32; 1 Cor 4:19; 16:7. How would you describe Paul's understanding of the

relationship between his plans and God's will?

10. Read Romans 1:13. What can we learn about planning from the repeated failure of Paul's plans to visit them?
11. James condemns self-reliance, yet he doesn't promise detailed guidance. According to the sermon, how should we then plan?
12. How does verse 17 relate to planning?

### LIVING IT OUT

13. How does the way we plan reveal what we *really* believe about God?
14. Christians of a previous generation wrote D.V. (Deo Volente, Latin for "God willing") in their letters. Was this a good application of Jas 4:13-17?
15. How will you express your humble dependence on God in your plans?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"

- James 4:15

