



Week 9 Discussion Guide

Main Passage: James 4:1-12 ESV

Opening: Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.

Introduce the theme: Every day we make thousands of decisions — some small and some life-changing. James reminds us that followers of Jesus are not called to live independently from God, but in daily dependence on Him. Wisdom isn't just asking, "What do I want?" but "What does God desire for me?"

Today's conversation is about surrendering our plans, trusting God's wisdom, and learning how to make decisions that honor Him.

Discussion Questions

CONNECT

- What is one small decision you've made recently that unexpectedly had a big impact?
- Would you describe yourself as an overthinker, impulsive, cautious, or confident decision-maker? Why?
- Where in life do you feel the weight of constant decision-making (decision fatigue) the most right now?

DISCOVER

Read Together: James 4:13-17 together.

INITIAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Is there anything that stands out to you most in this passage? Why?
- What emotions or reactions come up when you hear James describe life as "a mist"?

INTERPRETING SCRIPTURE:

- James confronts people who confidently make plans without considering God. Why do you think this attitude is so dangerous spiritually?
 - James says, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." What do you think it practically looks like to include God in your decision-making?
 - Verse 17 says failing to do the right thing is sin. Why is "doing nothing" sometimes just as spiritually dangerous as making a bad choice?
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APPLY

There are plenty of questions to choose from here. Don't feel like you have to hit all of them, but take time to see which would be most impactful for your group based on the conversation so far.

Lie #1 – “I Am In Control”

- Where are you most tempted to act like you are fully in control of your life?
- Have you ever had a moment where your plans completely changed, but looking back you can now see God's hand in it?

Lie #2 – “My Agenda Is Foolproof”

- Why is surrendering our plans to God difficult?
- In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “Nevertheless, not my will, but yours.” (Matthew 26:36-46) What is a current “nevertheless” moment in your life? Think of it this way: What's one area where God may be inviting you to trust Him more?

Lie #3 – “I Deserve the Glory”

- Why do you think people naturally crave recognition, control, and credit?
- How can pride subtly influence even “good” decisions?
- What would it look like for your decision-making to become more God-centered instead of self-centered?

REFLECT

Each of the lies mentioned above needs to be replaced with the truth of God's word. As a group or individually, take some time to reflect on these three truths from Scripture and ask the Lord to help you believe them in your heart.

- Truth #1: God is all-knowing
- Truth #2: God is all-powerful
- Truth #3: God is all present

Ask the Group: Which of these three truths about God gives you the most comfort and encourages your faith?

GROUP PRAYER

Pray Together as a Group

Pray:

- **Wisdom:** That we would trust that God knows best.
- **Humility:** That we would recognize our own shortcomings.
- **Trust:** That we would have the faith to boldly obey God's wisdom for our lives.

CLOSING

- *Remind the group:* Every decision shapes direction, and direction shapes destination. The good news of the gospel is that no matter how many bad decisions we've made, Jesus offers grace, redemption, and a new path forward.