

# Small Group Study Guide

## ICE BREAK

- How common is it for you to use the phrase: Lord Willing?

## STUDY

This week we focus on the power of our attitudes and behaviors related to the future and God's will.

What did you hear in this week's sermon that was new about our plans and God's plans for the future?

### 1. Read James 4:13-15

- a. Why is James warning us to not be too presumptive about our future ?
- b. How can concentrating on the future become an illusion that we will find peace?
- c. Now **Read vs 4:16-17?** Here He warns of putting off doing the right thing today.
- d. Procrastination: putting off the unpleasant. How can that become a spiritual flaw?

### 2. James 5:4-6: Jesus: "You have lived in luxury/self indulgence- at the expense of justice to others."

- a. Why does God consider that equal to murder?
- b. What leads us to doing the wrong thing today and putting off the right thing until tomorrow?

### 3. Proverbs 21:15

- a. How is good planning a wise spiritual practice?
- b. "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it" Ps 118:24?
- c. Common metaphors the bible uses to describe the relative brevity of our lifespan: mist, vapor, shadow, cloud, flower, grass.

- i. What does God specifically promise for each day? We are guaranteed some things that are wonderful and some not wonderful!
- ii. What are some practical helpful ways you live each day without regrets about yesterday or fears/illusions about tomorrow?

## REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss: One thing you need to no longer "put off until tomorrow". How does "The Lord is Near" help you today?

## PRAY

- Pray for each other's need to live each day fully in Christ.
- Follow up on past prayer requests.
- Pray for the purpose God has given each of us to live out daily.