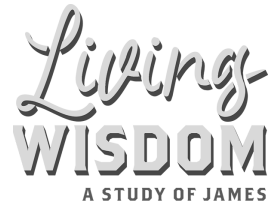


## **JAMES 4:11-17**

*November 2-3, 2022*



1. Begin by reading James 4:11-12 along with James 4:1. According to verse 11, what was one cause of quarrels among the early Christians?

The Bible uses the word slander to describe speaking evil of others. What other words come to mind when you hear the word slander?

Although the world has a casual attitude toward slander, it is often very destructive. What do the following verses in Proverbs say about slander?

Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 17:9

Proverbs 26:22

2. Reread James 4:11-12, but this time read it along with James 4:10. Explain how humbling ourselves before God helps us to guard against speaking evil of others.

What are some ways we rationalize our slander of others?

3. James 4:11 also warns against judging fellow Christians. We are called to encourage fellow Christians to repent and be restored to wholeness. What must we do to prepare ourselves before we help a fellow Christian struggling with sin? Look at Matthew 7:1-5 for insight.

Read Galatians 6:1 and record some ways you can encourage a fellow Christian who is struggling with sin.

4. Continue by reading James 4:13-16. What evidence recorded by James indicates the early Christians were more confident in their own plans than they were in God's plans for them?

There is no evidence they sought the will of God when making their plans. What do the following portions of scripture say about including God in our planning?

Proverbs 16:3

Proverbs 16:9

Proverbs 19:21

5. According to James 4:14 and 16, what factors were foolishly being ignored as they made their plans for the future?

Read James 4:15. What godly attitudes would you need to reflect a life lived with regard to God's will?

6. What has God provided to help us discern His will? Look at Hebrews 4:12 and John 14:26 for insight.

How do you go about determining God's will for your life?

When is it most difficult for you to discern God's will?

What are some reasons you do not seek or follow God's will?

7. Explain how your desire to live in God's will demonstrates your faith in His sovereignty. What is the ultimate outcome of a life lived within the will of God? Look at Matthew 5:16 and 1 Corinthians 10:31 for insight.

8. Finish by reading James 4:17. Summarize verse 17 in five words or less.

Why do you think James would conclude this portion of scripture with this stern warning?

9. Glance back over James 4:11-17. Which is more difficult for you, trusting God's will in His judgment or trusting God's will with your future? Why?

What verse or verses from this portion of scripture have helped you evaluate your desire to obey God's will in these two areas of your life?

Consider your present circumstances and write a short prayer asking God to help you discern and obey His will.

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## **OUR FATHER KNOWS BEST**

James 4:11-17

*"The will of our Heavenly Father comes from His heart and is an expression of His love."*

Warren W. Wiersbe

### **Trust His Judgment**

4:11-12

- \*The early Believers made themselves judge and jury instead of trusting God's judgment.
- \*Restoring others to a right relationship with God should be your top priority.
- \*When confronting sin, do what God has laid out in His Word and leave the rest to Him.
- \*We are not called to be judges; God is the only true Judge.

#### **Our Father knows best.**

*Leave matters of judgment to Him and know with confidence He will deal with it in His perfect \_\_\_\_\_ and in His perfect \_\_\_\_\_.*

### **Trust His Plans**

4:13-16

- \*There is no evidence these early Believers sought the will of God when making decisions.
- \*Measuring success by what is accomplished leads to failure and disappointment.
- \*It is foolish to make plans for the future and not consider the will of God.

#### **Our Father knows best.**

*He alone knows every detail of every minute and how it will affect your future.  
Seek His \_\_\_\_\_ and discernment when making your plans.*

### **Trust His Will**

4:17

- \*It is sin when we seek God's will but fail to do what He reveals to us.
- \*His moral will is what He commands us to do and we honor Him when we obey it.
- \*Before taking a giant step, God gives you baby steps to take as you wait.

#### **Our Father knows best.**

*Search His Word to know His will and \_\_\_\_\_ what He reveals to you.  
Doing this enables you to live in His will and grow in your faith.*

**Living Wisdom – James 4:11-17**

**November 2-3, 2022**

**PSALM 33:11** The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.

**MATTHEW 7:3-5** “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

**MATTHEW 18:15-17** If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

**GALATIANS 6:1-2** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**1 PETER 4:8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

**ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**JOSHUA 1:8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

**PSALM 1:1-3** Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

**PROVERBS 19:21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

**MATTHEW 26:39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality...

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18** Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.