

NOTES & QUOTES



FAITH IN THE FUTURE
WEEK 8 - AUGUST 22, 2021

CONNECT (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. Are you the type of person who loves to make plans, or are you generally more spontaneous and non-committal? Give an example that illustrates your preference.
2. What is one of your long-term goals? How would you feel if you could not accomplish it?
3. Do you know what will happen tomorrow? Does having no control of the future frighten you or give you comfort? Explain.

THRIVE (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

4. Read James 4:13-17. Describe and distinguish the two attitudes toward the future found in this passage.
5. What do the following passages compare life to? James 4:14; Psalm 39:5; Psalm 78:39; Psalm 102:3 How does a sudden death of someone we know or someone famous help us to realize this? How do you feel about your life being like this?
6. Read James 4:14. Is James saying it is wrong to plan for the future? Explain.
7. Consider the following verses about planning and harmonize them with James 4:13-17: Proverbs 6:6-8; 13:16; 14:15; 15:22; 16:3,9; 19:21; 20:18; 21:5; Jeremiah 1:5; 29:11. What do we learn about God's view of planning for the future from these passages?

8. Read James 4:15. What does James mean when he tells us to make our plans based on the statement, "If the Lord wills"? How do we live in the tension of making plans according to the Lord's will?
9. How does James 4:13-17 provide you with a Kingdom mindset on how to spend your time?

COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

10. If you could change some things about your life to live more Christ centered, what would you change?
11. As you plan for the future, what kinds of things motivate you? When it comes to making plans for the future, have you been mindful about God's involvement and are you willing to surrender those plans to his will?
12. What would it look like in your life to give more dependence on God with your plans and future? How can you practice dependency on God?

PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY

"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom."

Psalm 90:12 (NLT)

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Proverbs 19:21