

Anything But Normal, Week 7

Scripture and Background Information for June 28-July 04.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **James 4:13-17**. As already mentioned earlier, James focuses on the practical part of our faith to God. James sees a life of good works, which is anything but normal, as the result of one's personal faith. James sees faith as the source for our thinking, which changes our actions.

In today's passage, James talks about the believer's life, which should be influenced by an awareness of God. Faith should influence the believer in every aspect of his life so that he should live in dependence on and from God.

Verses 13-14 look to the topic of making plans for their life. Talk about these verses and discuss if planning itself is wrong, or if James criticizes a special type of posture towards God. Verse 16 will help you determine the issue James describes. Much of this section can be connected to the type of people James has in mind and mentions in v.16. Knowing who are these people, what is their interest and goal will come in handy as you pursue James' instructions about planning.

Side Note: James does not merely string together single themes to write a letter to the scattered church. He writes his letter with a specific train of thought in mind. To see which points James is stressing, read the previous passage (4:1-12), and see how these passages are connected. Also, see the similarity of the introductory remarks of our passage, and the following passage (5:1-6). See the close resemblance of the people James is addressing in both passages. It will help you find the main focus of our passage.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

July

5:13-20