

# Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

## The Wisdom of Humility

### James 4:11-17

#### Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Have you ever been “judged” by others? How did it feel? How did it effect your relationship with the person?
2. Have you ever planned some thing or some event only to find out that because of unforeseen circumstances you were not able to accomplish or do it? How did you react to God in that situation.

#### Study It: Connecting with God’s Word

1. [v. 11a] What is the underlying sin for speaking ill of a fellow Christian? Does it make a difference if what we say is true or not?
2. [v. 11b] When speaking against a brother and sister, what law is being broken (Leviticus 19:18; James 2:8-9)? In what way is it broken? How does Jesus expand on this law (Matthew 7:12)?
3. [v. 12] Who is the only one who can create the law, apply the law and enforce the law (See Isaiah 33:22; Romans 3:6)? How do we take over God’s authority by judging others (See also Romans 14:4)?
4. [vv. 13-14] Who was James addressing when he said “Come now” or “Now listen”? What view of life did these people have that James was correcting? How does James view life? What OT metaphor does he use (Psalm 39:5-6; Job 7:7-9)?
5. [v. 15] If live is as James describes it in the previous verse, how should the Christians then live (Note “Instead” at the start of the verse). What is implied by saying “Lord willing?” How is Paul an example for us (See Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10; 1 Cor 4:19; 16:7; Phil 2:19)
6. [v. 16] What does the word “boast” mean? How were the Christian merchants boasting? To what degree does James condemn such boasting? Why does he take such a strong view? (See also 1 John 2:16; 1 Cor 1:28-29; 5:6)
7. [v. 17] What were the merchants doing that cause their sin of omission?

#### Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Why is it important that we do not judge a fellow Christian? Is it difficult for you to accept others who profess to be Christians but who do not worship as you do? In what ways do these verses help you in accepting diversity?
2. Do you try to control your life as much as possible? How does the unpredictability (but not arbitrariness) of life encourage your dependence on God?
3. What does the prayer “Lord willing” mean to you? Do you pray this prayer when you make plans for yourself, for your work, for your home or even for your church activities?
4. How can our activities cause or encourage sins of omission?