

## THE BOOK OF JAMES

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**BACK TO THE FUTURE:** as a group, make some 10-year predictions.

Where do you think you'll be living?

What do you think you'll be doing?

Do you think you'll be married?

Now read **James 4:13-17**. What do you think James is saying here? Is he suggesting that we should just wing it through life?

Re-read **James 4:6-10** from last week's study. How could these verses apply to the passage we're reading today?

On a scale of 1 (teeny bit) to 10 (a whole lot), how much influence does your commitment to Jesus Christ affect the way you think about and plan your life goals? Circle one and explain your answer.

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

Where do you need God's guidance as you plan for the future?

Turn to **Jeremiah 29:11-13**. How can we get help from God in planning for our lives? How can we prepare for the unexpected and hard things that happen in life? Look back to **James 1:2-4** to get you started.



"GRANDPA SAYS THE NIGHT SKY OUGHT TO CONVINCE US THAT GOD HAS MADE NO PUNY PLANS!"

## LEADERS' GUIDE

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Make sure you spend time going over this study before you study it with the students. **Please don't show them this leader's guide, or have them download the study ahead of time from the website, since this guide is included in the lesson.**

## THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION:

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**After doing the opening question, bring one of your old yearbooks.** (If you're more of a recent high school graduate – within the last 5 years – bring some elementary school photos). After having some good laughs about haircuts and styles “back then,” point out some students you know well, or have heard some things about their lives.

When I look at one of my old yearbooks, I can point out one guy that ended up becoming an alcoholic, and drove off a cliff and died. I can point to another guy that was our student body president, and has since come “out” as a homosexual. I can point to a Mormon girl that had to resign as the senior class secretary because she got pregnant, and went on to marry young and have several kids. I can point to another friend who was a cheerleader and class officer, who went on to struggle with eating disorders, and ended up having a son born with cerebral palsy.

If I were leading the discussion, I would then go on to tell the students that a week before we graduated, my girlfriends and I met at someone's house and wrote down our “ten year predictions” about what we thought we'd be doing. They all predicted that I'd be a business woman working in a skyscraper in San Francisco! God has a funny sense of humor.

**Bottom line:** we never know what's going to happen in our lives. Our world would like to give us the illusion that we can have “total control” over our future, if we just plan well enough. We're going to look at a passage today that touches on this, and what we should do instead.

Re-read **James 4:6-10** from last week's study. How could these verses apply to the passage we're reading today?

*Get the students to see that submitting to God, resisting the devil, coming near to God, and humbling ourselves before God are the best ways to prepare for the future.*