

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Faith & Adversity

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## Faith and Planning

James 4:13-17

*For a Christ follower, planning for tomorrow is a good thing, even a wise thing; but planning for tomorrow with no reference to God or His will is just an \_\_\_\_\_ thing.*

**Discussion 1.** Think about a story or circumstance from your own life that shows just how little control we have over our future. When you think about the reality that only God is in control of your future, does that encourage you or does that scare you? Why?

*What "If the Lord wills..." means to an authentic faith is that I am building into all my plans for tomorrow plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ for God to interrupt and have His way with my time and my resources.*

**Discussion 2.** There are plenty of kinds of "margin" to be built into our lives in order to make room for God: financial, relational, and time (to name a few). What is the most challenging kind of margin for you to build into your life? Why?

*Authentic faith is not self-centered. Even in our planning ahead, Christ followers submit to God's will and leave room for God to help us be more outwardly focused. Anything less is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 3.** What might it look like for you to hold your plans before the Lord and seek His input on them? How would that look for family planning? For business planning? For ministry planning?

*The biggest reason good, God-fearing people do not stop to help with the needs God places in front of us is that our plans for that day (or week or month or year) do not leave room for such God assignments. Our plans are not \_\_\_\_\_ to God.*

**Discussion 4.** As you think about your own plans for the coming week, how much space have you left for God to call you to minister to someone unexpected? What steps could you take in your regular planning to leave this kind of margin for God to work?

**Discussion 5.** How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?